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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Puts Three-Point Plan to Italian Aide

PM0811160490 Rome AVANTI! in Italian 6 Nov 90 p 16

[Report by "F.G." on PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's 5 November press conference for Italian reporters in Tunis: " 'Arafat Proposes Three-Point Plan to European Countries"]

[Text] Tunis—'Arafat has proposed to Europe that it make an official commitment to a three-point plan that envisages, in very rapid succession, an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the withdrawal of foreign forces from Saudi Arabia, and the start of an international conference on peace in the Middle East. These proposals were illustrated by the PLO leader last night to Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Claudio Lenoci, with whom he spoke for over an hour at his residence in Tunis. "It is an interesting proposal," said Lenoci, who will immediately brief [Italian Foreign Minister Claudio] de Michelis on 'Arafat's suggestion. The PLO chairman also proposed that European-Arab dialogue, suspended because of the Gulf crisis, resume in the form of a dialogue between the EEC countries and the Mediterranean Arab countries (the Maghreb nations plus Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon), Jordan, and the PLO, together with Qatar, duty chairman of the Arab League.

Speaking to journalists about his conversation with 'Arafat, Lenoci said that their entire discussion centered on the issue of the link between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian problem. We have basically acknowledged this link from the political viewpoint for some time, Lenoci said, but we do not believe that realistic conditions exist for implementing resolutions or sanctions of the same nature and scope with regard to both problems at the same time. For his part, 'Arafat judged this acknowledgment of the political link important, if only because of the rapid deterioration of events in the occupied territories which are making the situation critical and creating difficulties for the PLO chairman himself with his own people.

The under secretary for foreign affairs admitted that a conflict of opinions did emerge over the Western theory—which 'Arafat called "optimistic"—that the international concentration of the new world order... from the United States a new role as "first among equals" and will force it to take account of its international partners' stances and pressures and thus alter its attitude to Israel [sentence as published]. On this point, Lenoci said, 'Arafat seemed to me fairly sure that the U.S. Administration is the worst in history—worse than Reagan's. He bases this assessment on the fact that the United States is making no proposals: It is simply against the Palestinians. There is a hard and fast stance, Lenoci observed, on the Iraqis' unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. But at this present time of extreme crisis, when the Iraqis could be suffering psychological pressure that perhaps they would not have suffered some months ago, Europe must assume a strong proactive role.

'Arafat himself, meeting with journalists after his conversation with Under Secretary Lenoci, clarified certain points about his position: "We are seeking an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis under an international umbrella including the United Nations," the PLO leader said, stressing the existence of a "political link" between an Arab solution and Kuwait's withdrawal.

'Arafat went on to discuss the situation in the occupied territories at length.

[AVANTI!] What would be the future of the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza if a conflict were to break out?

['Arafat] A war would be an international disaster of huge proportions that would involve not only the Palestinians, but all the peoples both of the Middle East and of all the other countries of the world, from Europe to Asia. This is not Vietnam: It would be a war in the center of the oil fields that would cause a global economic panic.

[AVANTI!] What is the PLO's image following its backing granted to Iraq at the start of the crisis?

['Arafat] The media, and especially the U.S. media, have tried to destroy our image, whereas it was precisely we who were the first to talk about and work for a peaceful solution, while the rest were beating the drums of war. Now the rest, too, are beginning to understand these positions of ours.

[AVANTI!] Are you doing anything for the hostages?

['Arafat] You should realize that we have worked hard to resolve this problem and that we have achieved results in the case of the Greek, Spanish, Cypriot, Italian, Austrian, and Maltese hostages; all the French; a number of the Indians, Pakistanis, and Laotians; and some Americans, and we will continue. I am not a mediator. I am doing my best, and I will continue to do so.

'Arafat went on: Nobody has asked me anything about the current massacres in the occupied territories: In three months there have been four massacres of our people. Where are the UN forces to protect our people? I am entitled to demand protection for my people, who include Christians and Muslims, and for their holy places. Perhaps the British and American Armies are interested in the oil fields, but for us the Christian and Muslim holy places are even more important.

[AVANTI!] Will there be open fighting in the occupied territories?

['Arafat] I face strong pressures from the Palestinian masses to give them the order to use their weapons. I have not given it yet, and I have insisted on the continuation of the intifadah, but remember that patience has its limits: How long can the escalation of aggression against our women and children continue?

[Avanti!] Can you explain your proposal to continue the European-Arab dialogue?

['Arafat] It is not a real proposal; it is an idea that I put to the under secretary—for him to convey to my friend, Minister de Michelis—for a continuation of the dialogue begun last year in Paris, which we hope can continue this year in Italy, between the European and Mediterranean Arab countries under Qatar's duty chairmanship of the Arab League Council of Ministers. This formula would allow for the representation of all the Arab countries, at least temporarily, until the crisis is resolved.

[AVANTI!] Do you believe that this meeting could result in a proposal for a peaceful solution to the crisis?

['Arafat] Certainly, we could discuss all the problems, including European-Arab cooperation in all fields, and the first topic would be the Gulf crisis and the Middle East situation.

'Arafat Adviser on Protecting Palestinians

JN0811112690 Amman THE STAR in English 8-14 Nov pp 3, 10

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, from Tunis; date not given]

[Text] THE STAR: The PLO has requested the convening of an emergency session of the UN Security Council. What is the draft resolution that you hope to pass and do you expect any objection from Council members especially the United States to such a resolution?

Mr Abu-Sharif: The PLO had requested the convening of the Security Council in order to discuss the very dangerous situation in the occupied territories. The Israeli government had given clear instructions to its soldiers to open fire against the Palestinian civilians all over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. That resulted in the past 48 hours in hundreds of casualties. The UN Security Council is responsible to take action against the occupying power, Israel, which is violating in a continuous way the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

It is the obligation of the Security Council to bear the consequences of its reluctance to implement the UN Security Council Resolution 242 which was taken 23 years ago.

So, we are asking the Security Council to take a resolution that will introduce concrete protective measures to the Palestinians in compliance with its commitment to the Fourth Geneva Convention. And we hope that the United States will take a stand that fits logically with its principles and put an end to the use of double standards when it comes to the UN Security Council resolutions on the Middle East.

Q: The PLO, through Chairman 'Arafat, has been calling for the protection of Palestinans living under occupation in the West Bank and Gaza. What practical measures are you requesting to achieve this goal?

A: We are looking forward to a UN Security Council resolution that will ensure the protection of our people from the unprecedented campaign of organized terrorism waged by the Israeli occupation forces against our people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Our people had suffered so much from the occupation. They are still suffering. It is the duty of the Security Council to take the proper concrete steps to put and end to that. It is, in fact, the particular duty of the five permanent members of the Council to do that. The west in particular should put an end to this "Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" attitude concerning the Middle East. What we are proposing is very simple: Measures to protect our people. We are also proposing a mechanism to keep the Security Council involved with the issue because our experience with the Israeli government's attitude toward the UN Security Council Resolutions is that it is a straightforward No.

The Security Council should take measures against the Israeli government's rejection to comply with the international legality and the UN Security Council resolution.

Bush said: "No state is above international law." We would like to see president Bush take positions and stands that express conformity with what he had declared. The Arabs on whole and the Palestinians feel that they have been discriminated against.

What we are proposing together with the Arab and Non-aligned Countries are protective measures. If Israel rejects them, then the Council should meet to discuss punitive measures.

The protective measures should be concrete (to be implemented) under the UN flag in all the West Bank and Gaza and in Jerusalem.

Q: PLO representaitve at the UN met Tuesday [6 November] with US envoy Mr Pickering. Do you see any indication of a resumption of a PLO-US dialogue on the Palestinan question? Has there been any official contact between you and the United States over the occupied territories since the suspension of the dialogue in June of this year?

A: The meeting between our representative at the UN and Mr Pickering of the United States is, of course, important. It is the meeting between PLO representative and the president of the Security Council for this month. The fact that they have met shows a certain attention given to the situation in the occupied territories. We hope this will reflect on the UN Security Council deliberations and resolutions. Our representative had sent an official letter to Mr Pickering in his capacity (as Council president). The letter was sent on 5 November by Mr Nasir al-Qudwah, alternate permanent observer of Palestine at the UN. The letter described events of the previous 48 hours in the occupied territories and the campaign of oppression waged against the Palestinians by the Israeli government. It called for an immediate

consideration and action by the international community and in particular by the Security Council.

Q: How do you assess the situation in the occupied territories now especially after the al-Aqsa Mosque massacre, the Gaza siege and the recent killings of an elderly Palestinian couple in response to the assassination of Me'ir Kahana? Have the security and safety of Palestinians under occupation deteriorated further in the last few days?

A: The safety of the Palestinians and their security had deteriorated gravely in the past few days. That is not because of the assassination of Rabi Me'ir Kahana, but because of a decision taken by the Israeli government to step up its violent oppressive campaign against the Palestinian people. PLO leadership received confirmed information on this measures from informed Israeli sources on the eve of the mass killings committed by Israeli forces in the Gaza strip.

The campaign will continue. We will step up our resistance to occupation. The stepping up of terrorism against our people will beget a stepping up of resistance.

Q: Do you expect the Intifadah to resort to the use of arms after the recent wave of killings perpetrated by Israeli settlers and soldiers. Will you condone the use of fire-arms by Palestinians in the occupied territories?

A: Until now the instructions of the PLO leadership is not to use arms but the same methods we have been using since the beginning of the Intifadah. But it is very well understood that certain people will react to Israeli brutal killing of Palestinians using their own ways. The Intifadah will be stepped up into a new stage. This new stage will have its own conditions and requirements. We have the right to use all means to resist the occupation. This is a right endowed to us by the United Nations Charter.

Q: The Secretary General of the UN has called for a meeting of the 164 signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention to discuss the issue of Palestinian protection and Israel's violations of the Convention. Do you think the meeting will take place and what do you expect to come out of it?

A: The Secretary General's call for a meeting of the signatories of the Fourth Geneva Convention to discuss the situation in the occupied territories is a constructive one. The contracting parties to the Geneva Fourth Convention should make sure that concrete action is to be taken by the Security Council to endorse the Convention through Security Council resolutions. Ending the occupation is what the Palestinians want and the implementation of Resolution 242.

The U.S. administration is still dealing with the Middle East using a double standard. This is a reason of increasing frustration among Palestinians and among Arabs. The fact that the use of double standards continues at a time when the United States is increasing its military build up in the Gulf will eventually lead to an explosion no one can envisage its consequences all over the Middle East.

Therefore, the United States is in fact responsible for the spread of extremism in the region.

We hope that President Bush and Mr Baker will realize that a peaceful solution to the Middle East problems is possible. This necessitates putting an end to the unfair way in which they have so far been dealing with the Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Middle East (Arab-Israeli conflict).

We believe a package deal in the Middle East is possible. A negotiated settlement to problems or regional crisis is what President Bush had always called for. Let's do that, then, in the Middle East to solve all the problems of the region.

Failure To Award Damages to Palestinians Decried

JN0911075890 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1627 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] An official Palestinian source has stated the following: The European-U.S. financial coordination group has concluded the meeting it held in Rome on 5 November on world states and peoples which have sustained losses because of the Gulf crisis. It is regrettable that this committee, at the urging of the United States and because of its influence, has refused to endorse damages for the Palestinian people, who are the biggest losers, financially speaking, from the Gulf crisis, since financial losses sustained by the Palestinian community in Kuwait were estimated at $4 billion in the form of deposits and in-kind property for individuals and companies. These losses include due compensations, as well as the losses sustained by our people in the occupied territories who received monthly remittances from this community. The Palestinian community in Kuwait used to send remittances to families and relatives living under occupation. Furthermore, this community used to send donations totaling some $1.25 billion per year to institutions; societies; hospitals; universities; schools; and the families of those martyred, wounded, and detained in the intifadah.

Moreover, the PLO has lost donations as well as the total of monthly deductions from the Palestinians working in Kuwait for the [Palestine] National Fund.

While regretting that this committee, as well as some of the countries represented in it, have succumbed to U.S. pressure and blackmail in a bid to deprive the Palestinian people of the right to collect these damages, the PLO would like to expose the magnitude of the ethical crisis plaguing the U.S. Administration whenever it deals with the Palestinian people. It is similarly regrettable that some European and Arab parties have accepted this shameful conduct which will deprive our people of [rightfully due damages] and starve our masses in an attempt to strike at our revolution and intifadah, as well as our people's steadfastness, jihad, and defense of holy

lands, the lands of Palestine, in the face of the conspiracy of Judaization. The conspiracy seeks to weaken their determination to confront the Zionist occupation and defend the holy Islamic and Christian places.

We appeal to the world conscience to stop this injustice and this open conspiracy. Similarly, we appeal to the masses of our Arab nation, asking them to expose the conspiracy and the conspirators. As for our people, we would like to address them and urge them to demonstrate patience and seek God's help in this. They will not be able to buy the allegiance of the Palestinian people, their revolutionary and honorable positions, and their noble pan-Arab positions with money. Our people and our Arab nation are stronger than the plot and the plotters.

PLO UN Observer on Upcoming Council Session

JN0811115390 Amman THE STAR in English 8-14 Nov 90 p 3

[Report by STAR staff writer]

[Text] PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) Alternate permanent observer at the United Nations Mr Nasir al-Qudwah has said the PLO was determined to provide Palestinians living under Israeli occupation with the minimum level of protection from Israeli occupation authorities.

Mr al-Qudwah told THE STAR and Al-DUSTUR Arabic daily in a joint telephone interview from his office in New York that the PLO had informed UN General Secretary Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar that the Security Council was "legally obliged to convene to discuss the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem."

Mr al-Qudwah, who expected the Council to convene in the coming few hours, said the PLO had provided Council members from the Non-aligned Movement with copies of a Palestinian proposal that requested the Council to adopt a resolution calling for sending a UN observer mission to the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as condemning Israel for rejecting resolutions 672 and 673.

Mr al-Qudwah said the PLO would exert all possible efforts to get the Council to adopt a resolution that "must contain the minimum that would be acceptable by our people."

The PLO envoy to the UN said that the ball was now rolling in the other party's court. "It (the Council) will either approve a serious resolution or will publicly show its hostile attitude towards our people, said Mr al-Qudwah who stressed that the PLO would not accept any resolution that falls short of winning a new achievement for the Palestinian people.

Mr al-Qudwah called on the world body to apply the same yard stick and criteria in dealing with all conflicts, and address them on equal footing on the bases of international laws and the UN charter.

"We believe the Security Council should deal differently from the past with the Palestinian problem, and firmly with Israel that rejects its resolutions," said Mr al-Qudwah who said that the coming Council session and the position the United States would take on the projected resolution would reveal its true stand.

Meanwhile, Mr al-Qudwah said that some Arab countries which he declined to name were working to undermine an agreement reached by the Arab group at the UN to submit a memorandum to the General Assembly expressing reservation at accepting the credentials of the new Israeli delegation to the UN. He acused "these Arab countries of trying to avoid a confrontation with the United States and Israel."

Mr al-Qudwah said that certain amendments were introduced to the memorandum in order to guarantee its success and achieve a confrontation with Israel. He said he hoped to achieve a victory for the Palestinian cause by getting the General Assembly to voice its opposition to Israeli positions related to occupied Jerusalem and the situation in the occupied territories.

Mr al-Qudwah said the PLO is still holding negotiations with the UN Embargo Commission on finding a mechanism through which to send food supplies to Palestinians stranded in Kuwait and Iraq. He said the PLO observer mission had asked Secretary Perez de Cuellar to request the Security Council to either permit the PLO to send its own shipments of food to its people in Kuwait and Iraq or to have the UN co-operate with it or UNRWA on this stressing matter. "However, we are aware that this issue will take much time and effort," said Mr al-Qudwah.

He said that some members of the Security Council were attempting to put forward a draft resolution paving the way to reaching a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis. And though it was not yet clear whether these efforts would succeed," we can say that there is a general improvement in the political environment regarding this issue," said Mr al-Qudwah.

Algeria

Italian Foreign Minister Arrives in Algiers

AU0811133490 Rome ANSA in English 1244 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] (ANSA)—Algiers, November 8—Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis arrived in Algiers, Thursday, for a 24-hour stay to include talks with Algerian leaders on the Gulf and bilateral relations, official sources said.

Ghazali, Italian Counterpart Hold News Conference

LD0811232390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] The talks between the Algerian and Italian foreign ministers ended this evening with a tete-a-tete meeting and a news conference held by Sid Ahmed Ghazali and Gianni de Michelis.

At the begining of the news conference, the Algerian foreign minister dealt with the various issues covered in the talks with his Italian counterpart. He said in particular:

[Begin Ghazali recording] This visit comes under the framework of the almost continuous contact between the officials of our two countries on all perspectives and at the level of the prime ministers, foreign ministers, and ministers in charge of economy. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The Italian foreign minister affirmed that the talks were held on three levels: cooperation between the Arab Maghreb Union and the EEC, considering that Algeria and Italy chair these two groupings; The various means and fields of cooperation between the countries of the two communities were discussed; and how to contribute to finding a just, durable, and peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis was also discussed. The talks also covered the Gulf crisis and the elimination of the military solution as the latter has disastrous consequences for the various countries and on various levels.

On cooperation between Algeria and Italy, the Italian foreign minister talked about opening a new stage between the two countries before the end of this year and intensifying consultations and meetings on the basis of the decision and will of the presidents of the two countries. The Gulf crisis predominated the journalists' questions and the Italian foreign minister said that the stand of his country and that of the EEC were compatible. Both foreign ministers affirmed the (?need to boost) Algerian-Italian cooperation in the fields of gas and car manufacturing.

APUA Organizes Pro-Kuwaiti Forum

LD0811153890 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] The Popular Association for Unity and Action [APUA] organized a debate on the Gulf crisis yesterday evening. The debate took on the appearance of a pro-Kuwaiti or anti-Iraqi forum according to one's opinion. Invited to the debate were a Kuwaiti delegation, including students, as well as Arab ambassadors. Testimonies of the imprisonment and sufferings of the Kuwaiti people preceded the restating of the positions of countries like Syria and the Sultanate of Oman, two countries which are known to be favorable to Kuwait. Representatives of Algerian political parties also took part in the meeting. The president of the Algerian Man is Capital Party announced a march for peace in the Gulf on 15 November.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Leaves for Damascus Meeting

NC0911104790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0954 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo for Damascus today at the head of a delegation. He will attend the tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, which is to be held in the Syrian capital.

The delegation accompanying Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid comprises Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Ambassador Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt, adviser to the foreign minister.

French Prime Minister Makes Brief Stopover

NC0811213990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2037 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—French Prime Minister Michel Rocard and his accompanying delegation left here this evening for Tokyo after a one-hour stopover at Cairo airport. During his stopover, the French prime minister held talks with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi on bilateral relations and political and economic issues of common interest.

Mubarak, Al-Qadhdhafi Exchange Views on Telephone

NC0811214190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak telephoned Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, tonight. During the call, Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi exchanged views on the current situation and regional developments.

Papers Say Gulf Crisis Entering 'Decisive Phase'

NC0911091290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0629 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH agree that the Gulf crisis is entering a

decisive phase and that the all the clues gathered by world leaders indicate that any further attempt to bring the ruler of Iraq to reason will be useless.

In today's commentaries, both papers say that every time Saddam Husayn is given the opportunity to reconsider his position and observe international laws, he becomes more obdurate, more intransigent, and more adamant about his wrongful policies. Saddam, the papers note, believes that he alone is right and that the whole world is biased against him.

Writing under the headline "Patience Is Running Out," AL-AKHBAR says that all the recent statements and remarks made in various capitals suggest that patience is quickly running out as many current and former world leaders have visited Baghdad and have failed to persuade Saddam Husayn to abandon a position that has won the condemnation of the entire international community.

The paper adds: Even those who led the campaign to give peace another chance have finally concluded that any efforts with Saddam are going to be useless. Therefore, there is no longer hope of avoiding a disaster toward which the Iraqi ruler is steadily and deliberately steering his country.

AL-JUMHURIYAH, writing under the headline "Arab Coordination," notes the importance of today's meeting in Damascus between Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egypt's deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Syrian Foreign Minister Dr. Faruq al-Shar'; and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

The paper says that all quarters have concluded that the Gulf crisis has entered its final phase and that Saddam Husayn is only seeking to prolong the status quo and gain time.

The paper says that the Egyptian, Syrian, and Saudi foreign ministers will continue in Damascus the talks that were held in Jeddah a few days ago. The meeting, AL-JUMHURIYAH states, underscores the coordination of the three sisterly Arab countries that have chosen to stand on the side of lawfulness and justice and to back international laws since the first moment of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The paper says that the meeting was motivated by the three countries' sense of responsibility. Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, the paper adds, believe that the Gulf crisis is an inter-Arab problem and that it should be handled with due care, attention, and urgency so as to maintain the international community's interest in backing justice and legality.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Comments on Baker Tour

Says Timing 'Important'

JN0911093890 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Nov 90 p 6

[Editorial: "War or Peace"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrives in Cairo today for talks with President Husni Mubarak and other officials on the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and the proposed peace alternatives. Observers regard Baker's tour as extremely important because it is accurately timed to correspond with increasing talk about a military option as the ultimate solution, following the persistent intransigence of Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi regime and their illogical initiatives, the latest being their readiness to release the foreign detainees if the big powers pledge not to attack Iraq, thus ignoring the root cause of the crisis which is the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and the occupation of its territory by force.

As Baker begins his mission by visiting the U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia as a significant gesture, the forces of peace and stability continue to wager on a peaceful solution. They believe that the international community has adopted the appropriate decisions that will strangle Iraqi intransigence and defeat aggression. As President Husni Mubarak has confirmed, firmness in implementing the economic blockade is the best means to avoid military action. Naturally, the blockade requires time, and we will avoid bloodshed if this blockade is fully implemented and all nations abide by it.

French President Mitterrand commented by saying: We are working for peace, but in the spirit of defending international rights as emphasized by the United Nations. We are not governed by war sentiments, but this should not be at the expense of international rights.

Cairo is continuing its contacts and efforts for the sake of peace so that the Arab nation may devote itself to its fundamental causes and regain its solidarity and unity. It will not, however, relinquish any right or abandon a duty and concern that international legitimacy be realized in order to confront irresponsible practices.

Views Soviet Position

JN0911090690 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Nov 90 pp 1, 3

[Article by editor in chief Mahfuz al-Ansari: "Allied Rivalry and Gulf Booty"]

[Text] Attempts at finding a solution to the Gulf crisis have of late been experiencing feverish ups and downs. Now war seems imminent; now peace seems at hand. In the meantime, there are those who argue that the odds for war and peace in the Gulf are about even.

And, having made the world sit on tenterhooks, President Saddam looks as though he has almost emerged unscathed from his adventure!!

With a world reluctant to go to war on such a scale—a war that could be averted through backstage deals—it seems that the war of nerves played out over the past three months has already been settled and won by the party that has kept its head the longest.

In the final analysis, though, there remains an international determination to see Iraq disgorge Kuwait, and legitimacy reinstated in this benighted country. And then, only after and not before these two conditions are met, can the outstanding problems between Iraq and Kuwait be addressed.

But how can Iraq be made to leave Kuwait, and its legitimate government reinstated? In any case, the aggressor will have to be taken on, and there are no two ways about the aim of whatever military action is embarked upon.

Besides the military option, however, some argue the case for either an economic war to break Iraq's civilian and military back, or a political campaign—coupled with intense psychological pressure—to so isolate Iraq as to drive it to further violations of international laws and, consequently, alienation of Arab, regional, and international, as well as national opinion.

It is assumed that these three versions of "war" are not defined in terms of a division of labor, the setting out of duties for each of the parties involved, but will have to reflect the unique, respective interests of the parties.

My reading of the current tour by the American Secretary of State James Baker and his talks in Egypt, the USSR, France, Saudi Arabia, the PRC, Syria, and other countries is that it is an attempt to lower the temperature. It is an attempt by the United States to get its allies to march in step and work out a joint formula at this critical phase of the crisis.

Within the context of this understanding, we can comprehend the statements made by Soviet envoy Primakov, since he is the first to know that his initiative toward Iraq has failed, and that the gap is still wide between President Saddam Husayn's demands and the demands contained in the binding UN Security Council [UNSC] resolutions.

Primakov, however, wants "the impossible" to happen. He is advocating an Arab solution at a time when the Iraqi president has dealt a blow to Arab unity and Arab solidarity, and also when the Iraqi president has rejected the initiatives launched by his Arab friends: Hassan II, Husayn, Bendjedid, 'Arafat, 'Ali Salih, and al-Bashir. Hence, the Soviet statements calling for "an impossible Arab solution" which express optimism can only viewed from the Soviet perspective regarding the way the crisis is to be handled. The USSR perspective is for the general principles: Withdrawal and reinstatement of the legitimate authority. The USSR supports the UNSC resolutions and believes that they should be implemented. Besides, the USSR supports the UN Charter and the right of states to defend themselves individually and collectively on the basis of Article 51 of the Charter. Consequently, it cannot oppose the U.S.-European-Arab-Islamic presence in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, which does not contravene this article.

The USSR knows, however, before others—given its contacts and direct ties with Iraq as well as the outcome of Primakov's mission—considering that it is a superpower and in view of the current course of events and developments in the crisis, that military confrontation is undoubtedly bound to take place. Military action is the path to be walked unhesitatingly to resolve the crisis if positions and things remain unchanged. That is why the USSR wants to impose itself as a partner in the operation. It does not want, however, to do this through large-scale participation as did the Americans, Britons, and others when they dispatched large numbers of troops, weapons, and ammunition to the Gulf. The USSR wants the decision authorizing war and a military solution to the crisis to be an international resolution issued by the UNSC in accordance with Article 42 of the Charter.

In this case, the allied troops would put on "the blue berets" of the United Nations and wear its badge. These troops would then be commanded by the UNSC Chief of Staff's comittee, whose members come from the permanent members of the UNSC.

Were such a thing to happen, the permanent members of the UNSC would have the chance to fully participate in drawing up the international and regional arrangements that would be set up once a solution materializes. Thus, the United States, the strongest and largest partner that has sent the greatest number of troops to the Gulf, would not be the only party to seize "the booty" and to make decisions and set up arrangements singlehandedly.

What is sure is that the Soviet statements on an Arab solution are manifestations of a maneuver directed at the Americans, before others. It is a message saying: If we were to be prevented from sharing the booty, we might "hide" this booty, since talk of an impossible Arab solution moves sentiments in the region in spite of the fact that it will fail to produce any solution.

This is one of the signs and indicators of the maneuvers currently being made in this crisis, in its current difficult and delicate phase. This maneuver concerns the "feverish" statements which speak of a solution using interpretations that might look contradictory and conflicting. As a matter of fact, these statements are manifestations of the same thing and of the same position.

In this light, we can understand the significance of Baker's visit and have a good reading of this visit. Consequently, we can discern this deliberate confusion about a solution and understand the fever and the fake differences among the partners to the alliance. We will talk more on this issue.

AL-AHRAM on Baker Tour, Striking at Saddam

JN0911083490 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Nov 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Toward A Showdown"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will begin talks in Cairo today as part of his Arab and European tour, amid signs that the Gulf crisis is approaching a showdown.

In prearrival statements, Baker has not concealed that the military option is one of the focal points of his talks in the countries he will visit, and that the aim of his tour is to determine the conditions set by the capitals concerned to support a potential military action. These statements have given the general impression that Baker is seeking to extract pledges from these countries to participe in military operations according to their capabilities and the roles they agree to perform. So, if we add to this President Bush's planned visit to Arab and European countries two weeks later, and his endeavors to reach an understanding with Congress on the possibility of waging battles with prior authorization at a time when the legislature is in recess following the elections that begin today, then we can say that the military "solution" is now on the priority list, while peace efforts are continuing in their own direction without any obstruction.

Moreover, there are other factors that make the possibility of the use of force more likely, especially reports that the United States no longer objects to the issuance of a "final" resolution by the Security Council authorizing member states to resort to military operations to implement earlier resolutions under the banner of the United Nations. America rightly believes that the UN Charter authorizes it to carry out its operations under the clause of the right of others—which are the Gulf countries in this case—to summon it for self-defense. It seems, however, that its approval of the issuance of a new resolution aims at "pooling" all international trends toward the goal of operations without any delay or retreat.

Also among these factors is the fact that the circles of the anti-Saddam front are almost convinced that he is intensifying his tricks, especially concerning the hostages, to create a permanent gap in the allied ranks. This confirms that he is absolutely not serious about a peaceful acquiescence. The evidence of this is also his continued massing of troops and setting up of new fortifications along the Saudi-Kuwaiti border, not to mention his operations inside Kuwait to isolate a significant part of it and sever it through a wall that is currently under construction.

Besides, there is a growing feeling that even if Saddam resorts to a last-minute withdrawal, he must be struck so that he will not repeat his occupation methods later; so that his model will not be imitatated; and so the world will maintain the stability of its new order.

Writer Attacks Official Media Position on Gulf

JN0411203790 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 31 Oct 90 p 5

[Article by Dr. Ahmad Thabit: "Sadatist Trend in Egyptian Media"]

[Text] Since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the rabid attacks by the official Egyptian media have not only been directed against Arab rulers and the PLO leadership, but insults and slanders have also been leveled at the Arab people themselves.

The editor of a government weekly has aimed flagrant insults against "most of the Palestinian people, who voluntarily sold their land and cause to the Jews" as he put it. He instigated the government to take fierce measures that could be similar or even more violent than Israel's actions against the Arabs in the occupied territory.

One bitterly wonders: Which of the Arab states support the Egyptian regime's policy on the Gulf crisis? This regime is staunchly defending the U.S. buildup, allowing the passage of U.S. aircraft carriers and nuclear-powered ships through the Suez Canal, and even preparing Egyptian public opinion to accept the U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, which in all probability will continue after the settlement of the crisis. This regime is also accepting a regional security alliance and military coordination led by the United States that includes the Gulf emirates and Egypt. The regime goes as far as instigating and urging the United States to strike a crippling military blow at Iraq's vital installations and utilities. A writer with pro-government leanings ridicules President Bush because he has taken so long to strike at Iraq and because he dared to say that the Iraqis and Americans could coexist.

One wonders who supports Egypt's policy other than the Gulf's emirates and shaykhdoms whose rulers had vested interests in requesting British protection before independence and American protection after it.

This policy has robbed us of our historic ties with Sudan as a neighbor and strategic asset, and with Jordan, Mauritania, Yemen, Tunisia, Algeria, and the PLO. Our ties with Libya have become lukewarm because it offered an independent initiative without U.S. patronage. Agreements have been reached with Syria, but Syria's calculations are completely different. The Egyptian media have not praised the Syrian attitude because it has denounced both the U.S. intervention and the Iraqi invasion. Now only Somalia and Djibouti support us.

It is surprising that Israel has not aimed such hideous insults at the Palestinians as are the government's writers. Indeed, some Israelis recognize the rights of these people to establish an independent state and denounce the savage repression of the Palestinian intifadah.

The concentrated attacks on the Palestinian people are significant and have an aim that we understand very well. The Gulf crisis is a golden opportunity for Israel and some of the Egyptian regime's writers and officials to force the Egyptian people to forget forever the Palestinian cause, which is the crux of the Arab-Zionist struggle.

The Government's position, and its rabid media campaigns, are restoring the dominant Sadatist trend the

symbols and figures of which constitute the strongest and most influential wing in the ruling regime's structure and its political and class allies. This reminds us of the famous proverb: "He who is not with me is against me." In other words, whoever does not support the U.S. military intervention and give Washington the absolute freedom of making decisions—when to enter, when to leave, and when to strike—is against the Arabs, Arabism, and the Egyptian people and government.

Commentary Views Factors in Gulf Crisis

NC0811173790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: Foreseeable and Unforeseeable Factors in the Gulf Crisis]

[Text] At the current phase in the Gulf crisis, the most we can say, judging from the facts of the current situation, is that if the sanctions and the economic blockade do not force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, military force will be used. No one can predict the amount of time which the sanctions and blockade may need to obtain the desired effect. It is clear, however, that both are working very slowly and that there are gaps through which Iraq is still getting some things vitally needed to withstand the sanctions and blockade for the longest possible time. This is all we can objectively say in connection with the Gulf crisis at its current phase and on whether it will be resolved peacefully or through war.

Unforeseeable factors, however, may completely change the situation all of a sudden. One factor is that either side may embark on a provocative act which may spark the war. This is unlikely, since both parties to the dispute—the international community and Iraq—are well aware of the grave repercussions of war. It is certain, though, that no matter how grave these repercussions may be for the international community, they cannot be compared to their seriousness for Iraq. The international community can absorb the shock of war, regardless of the costly sacrifice. As for the impact of war on Iraq—a country with little human and material resources, particularly under the burden of economic sanctions and the international blockade—it will be total destruction, after which it will need decades to rebuild.

Even if we assume, for the sake of argument, that Iraq can win a battle or even a round in the war, this will not change the final result in the least. The international community has enough power in stock to continue fighting until the war is settled in its favor. On the other hand, Iraq's resources will only enable it to engage in a single battle, after which everything will be over. Some will say that Iraqi President Saddam undoubtedly knows these realities very well. Why the obstinacy then? Why does he not try to save what can be saved?

The answer is that venturous aggressors have their own logic. The Iraqi president, having realized the dimensions of his involvement, hopes the international community will not resort to force against him under any circumstances, because it will be costly. The war will certainly inflict great damage on the international economy, which may require years to reverse. Added to this are the human losses involved in war and their impact on the various communities, particularly the Americans. Consequently, the Iraqi president hopes to persuade the world to bargain. Some may ask: Does President Saddam Husayn not attach any importance to the Iraqi people, their vital interests, and their destiny? The answer is: When did tyrants ever attach importance to the people? People are merely a means to realize personal glories and interests.

The matter is quite simple. If we measure the possible gains incurred for the Iraqi people by the invasion of Kuwait against the price they will pay with the blood of their sons, we will see how grave the loss will be in this losing transaction. Now that the invasion has already occurred, one can only try to discover ways out of the predicament with the minimum possible losses.

Military Debts 'Biggest Scandal of 20th Century'

JN0511082090 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 31 Oct 90 p 5

[Article by Majid Tubya: "We Want To Know Their Names"]

[Text] President Bush finally did well when he pushed the U.S. Congress into writing off Egypt's military debts. We know, however, that charitable actions are not part of the calculations of states, and that in return for its decision the United States had in advance received what is worth tens of times the value of these debts. Without the position of President Mubarak, the United States would not have enjoyed such international support and would have appeared in the Gulf as a superpower using force to control the Arabs' oil. Add to this the billions we had already repaid.

But I do not understand the secret behind the practical and legal postponement of the write-off decision until 31 March. This postponement means, first, that Egypt should completely abide by U.S. wishes until this date or else the decision will be rescinded. And it means, second, that the United States expects the problem of Kuwait to be solved—peacefully or militarily—before 31 March.

But this loan has revealed an alarming fact that our government has long concealed. It has always rejected discussions of military debts at the People's Assembly under the pretext that these are military secrets. But it transpires now that the aim was to conceal the greatest financial scandal of the 20th century. Even the scandals of Khedevi Isma'il in the past century look small in comparison.

The chief editor of AL-AHRAM has disclosed some terms associated with this loan. The sum is $7.1 billion, with an annual increase of $1.2 billion, reaching $21 billion in the year 2006.

And he writes: "One of the strangest terms of this loan is that it cannot be repaid before 2006, and that even if Egypt wanted to repay it immediately, it would have topay $21 billion—the total sum at the end of the period."

These are usury terms that we have never before heard. Even the terms accepted by Khedevi Isma'il seem nothing compared to these unjust and suspicious terms.

Did the price of those weapons and the cost of their transportation, which are very much exaggerated, deserve the acceptance of these terms and making of these concessions?

We want the state to answer the following question:

Who are the ones who accepted these concessions? And what is their interest in this?

Concealing their names endangers the future of the homeland because we do not want the officials to get involved in such a catastrophe in the future. We are the ones who pay the price when we buy bread, meat, and clothes for our children.

Minister 'Ubayd on Plans for Small Industries

NC0311075290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 3 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH headlines remarks made by Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs, at a higher management symposium yesterday. Dr. 'Ubayd said that $350 million has been earmarked for loans and assistance to small industries. He added that special investment zones will be established in Egypt financed by Gulf investment funds.

Another paper, AL-AHRAM, cites Dr. 'Ubayd as saying that intensive negotiations are being held with Arab development funds to assist in the enlargement of the special investment zones and the enhancement of their infrastructure. This is to enable small firms to operate as soon as machinery is set up.

Morocco

Laraki Attends Meeting on French Media

LD0811214290 Rabat Television Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] The Chamber of Representatives held a special closed session on the defamatory campaign carried out by some French media against our national sanctities.

Prime Minister Dr. Azzedine Laraki and the members of the government attended this session. The latter, which is chaired by Ahmed Osmane, speaker of the Chamber of Representatives, is held at the request of the prime minister, submitted by Abdesslam Barakat, minister delegate for relations with the parliament and followup of Arab Maghreb affairs, in accordance with Article 41 of the Constitution and Article 49 of the internal regulations of the Chamber of Representatives.

Complaint Lodged in Paris

LD0811140590 Rabat MAP in English 1209 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 8 - (MAP)—Following the defamation campaign led by some French media against Morocco and its sacred values and institutions, the Moroccan Government lodged a complaint at the Paris magistrates' court gainst 'Antenne 2', 'Radio France International' (RFI), 'France Info' 'AGENCE-FRANCE PRESSE' (AFP).

The complaint was lodged by president of the Casablanca bar Mohamed Naciri and by French lawyers M. Sarda and Jean Denis Bredin, settled in Paris.

Sources here said that other complaints are about to be lodged at the Paris magistrates' court by several physical and moral, public and private persons including the Bureau of the Parliament, the League of Moroccan Ulemas (theologians), the Moroccan Employers' Union (CGEM), the Jewish community, the associations of Moroccan nationals settled abroad, the Supreme Council of resistance veterans, the Association of State-Employed Women, the Federation of Professional Chambers, students' organizations and others.

Sudan

Regional Governor Calls For More Refugee Aid

EA0811152190 Khartoumz SUNA in English 0924 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Kassala, Sudan 8 November (SUNA)—The governor of the Eastern Region, Colonel Awad M. al-Hasan, has acquainted the commissioner of refugees, Brigadier (ret) 'Abd-al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim, on the region problems due to the huge presence of refugees. The governor added that the assistances which were presented by the international community and the Commission of Refugees were not enough in comparison with their numbers. He called for more assistance from the international community and the High Commission of Refugees. The commissioner of refugees is on current visit to the region in order to be acquainted with the refugee situations.

Democratic Alliance Issues Command Directive

EA0811114890 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Command directives—Command Directive Number Two, from the commander in chief to the commanders of commands, branches, corps, and garrisons: All should maintain complete [word indistinct] in organizing the ranks; adherence to the side of the masses is (?correct). Beware of infiltrators into the ranks from elements of the Islamic Front in Armed Forces uniforms. Expose these elements to the masses. The brave Sudanese masses will be responsible for them. [passage indistinct]

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Discusses Gulf Crisis

PM0811122890 Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS in French 6 Nov 90 p 19

[Interview with Foreign Minister Habib Boulares by Dominique Lagarde in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Lagarde] At the start of the Gulf crisis, we had the feeling that, while it condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Tunisia more strongly deplored the U.S. deployment in the Gulf. Why? Is the aim to shadow public opinion?

[Boulares] At first we primarily stressed the need to keep the Gulf crisis in an Arab framework and to give the Arabs time to solve it. This would obviously be done on the basis of the principles of the UN Charter: From the outset we clearly stated that Iraq should leave Kuwait. The very first Arab meeting took place on 3 August. We were then all agreed on a series of principles: The withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, the handling of the problem in an Arab framework, and noninterference by other powers.

Tunisia has maintained this position, whereas other states subsequently modified their position and felt it necessary to internationalize the crisis.

[Lagarde] Does a sovereign Arab country which feels threatened not have the right to ask for help from other countries, even non-Arab countries?

[Boulares] Absolutely. In that case, however, why ask the Arabs to adopt a stance in the framework of an Arab institution? Either you appeal to the Arabs, with the intention of keeping the problem in an Arab framework, or you appeal to the United Nations and internationalize the problem. You cannot do both. If you ask for the Security Council's intervention, its decisions supersede all others. Moreover, that is why, after expressing the hope that the crisis would be handled at the Arab level, we said that we would abide by the Security Council's decision.

[Lagarde] In view of the fact that the Arabs, like the Security Council, are calling for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, what differences are there between these two approaches?

[Boulares] First there is the internationalization. Second, the countries which have deployed forces in the Gulf think that they are thus acting in the framework of the Security Council resolutions and implementing them. They are doing this without a direct mandate from the Security Council, on the basis of a number of provisions made in the Security Council resolutions.

[Lagarde] Was it possible to stick to an Arab framework, given the fact that the issue was the occupation of a sovereign state, a member of the international community, by another? Does this not concern the international community as a whole?

[Boulares] We are not contradicting that. Take the Lebanese case, for instance: Although the Security Council gave a legal ruling, the case was entrusted to the Arabs and it was in an Arab framework that a solution was drawn up in the form of the al-Ta'if agreements—a solution which is now starting to be implemented. Asking that the Arabs be given the chance of solving this problem does not conflict with international law. Having said that, we are in favor of the implementation of the law and of the UN resolutions. We are in favor of Iraq withdrawing from Kuwait and of Kuwaiti sovereignty being restored. We have always spoken the same language to all our partners.

[Lagarde] When you spoke that language to Saddam Husayn, did he show any sign that he was ready eventually to accept a compromise solution in an Arab framework?

[Boulares] The Iraqis think that they made proposals on 12 August with a view to a comprehensive handling of the Middle East problems. That is their way of seeing things.

[Lagarde] Do you think the problems should be linked?

[Boulares] We are campaigning for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, just as we are campaigning for the release of all the hostages and for the solution of all the problems in the region. Questions of concomitance, timetable, or orders of priority can only be handled if real political discussion starts. However, we are forced to note that so far political discussion has not started. Moreover, this is strange because, in the past, in major crises, there has always been a political approach—in other words contacts and negotiations—parallel to the Security Council's decisions, which are based on law, and parallel to military reaction where this exists.

In this case, there has been a legal and military approach, but complete stagnation on the political aspect. It is only recently that there has been some talk of a political approach. We regard this as progress.

[Lagarde] Tunisia put forward proposals for a political solution. What were the broad outlines of those proposals?

[Boulares] We simply said that in the framework of settling this affair, we could not disregard the causes which led to the crisis and that those causes should form part of the settlement, but we did not define the terms of such a settlement, as other plans did.

[Lagarde] Can the Arab states really solve a problem like this in view of their divisions?

[Boulares] The present divisions in the Arab world faithfully reflect international policy toward the Arab countries. The question is whether we want to solve this problem at the international or Arab level. Efforts so far seem to have been concentrated on settling it at the international level.

Bahrain

Amir Meets With Saudi Defense Minister

JN0811163390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1210 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 8 Nov (WAKH)—This afternoon in Manama His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain; Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister; and His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, received Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the accompanying delegation, now visiting the State of Bahrain.

Prince Sultan conveyed to his highness the amir of Bahrain the greetings of his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and the king's wishes for his highness' good health and well-being.

The amir of Bahrain expressed appreciation for the visit and told the prince to convey his greetings to his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and to Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, heir apparent, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and commander of the National Guard, and to thank them for their continued interest in his highness' health.

His highness the amir of Bahrain praised the distinguished relations between the two countries under the wing of the custodian of the two holy mosques, and the care and attention Bahrain has always been given by the Saudi monarch.

His highness the amir noted the clear, constant positions of Saudi Arabia toward our basic issues, which are of concern to the Arabian Gulf region and the Arab and Islamic nations, as well as the Kingdom's support for security, stability, affluence, and peace in the region.

The audience was attended by Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister; Muhammad Bin-Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, prince of Saudi Arabia's eastern region; and Dr. Ghazi 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Qusaybi, ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the State of Bahrain.

Minister Departs After Talks

JN0811192590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1745 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 8 Nov (WAKH)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general of Saudi Arabia, left Manama for home this evening at the conclusion of a brief visit to Bahrain.

Leading those who were on hand to see His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz off upon departure were Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, and His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force.

Among those who also bid the Saudi defense and aviation minister farewell were a number of senior officials, Saudi Ambassador to Bahrain Dr. Ghazi 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Qusaybi, and Bahraini Ambassador to Saudi Arabia 'Isa Ibn-Muhammad Al Khalifah. During the visit, Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz held talks with senior officials on the special fraternal ties between the two countries, the latest Gulf developments, and issues of common interest.

State Opens Airspace to East European Airlines

JN0611134890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 6 Nov (WAKH)—Bahrain has decided to open up its airspace to East European airlines within the framework of a plan to expand civilian air traffic from Bahrain International Airport. Shaykh Hamad Bin-Muhammad Al Khalifah, public relations officer at the Civil Aviation Administration, said in a statement to the newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ published today that the first East European flight to reach Bahrain will be the Polish airline LOT, followed by the Czechoslovak airline CSA, and then the Hungarian airline Malev.

He added that the Malaysian airlines have asked the Civil Aviation Administration for permission to start flights to Bahrain using Boeing 747 planes. Shaykh Hamad Bin-Muhammad Al Khalifah said he expects airline companies of other countries to ask to use Bahrain airport after ending the first stage of enlarging the airport, which is expected to be finished next April.

Kuwait

Defense Minister Rejects Talks With Husayn

PM0811152190 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 9 Nov 90 pp 30-31

[Unattributed interview with Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah in Jeddah; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAWADITH] We hear a great deal about the occupation authorities' terrorist practices against the Kuwaiti people. What is the truth about what is happening there?

[Shaykh Nawwaf] What is happening in my country has exceeded the acts and practices of the tyrants of history combined. Saddam is carrying out all acts of torture and terror against the peaceful people. Executions are carried out daily by the invading Iraqi forces. Kuwaiti establishments have been plundered and looted. They have stolen

Kuwait Airlines planes. They have attacked and broken into the the Kuwaiti Central Bank, stealing the money. They have entered hospitals and dumped children and handicapped people onto the streets. They have stolen medicines and equipment. They have destroyed vital establishments, looted homes, and broken into warehouses and stolen their contents.

But I am confident that my brothers in Kuwait will reject the occupation and will continue to use all means of struggle to expel the invaders. Right is with us, God is with us, and all world states are with us. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Some people believe that the occupation measures prompt war and that there is a need for a dialogue.

[Shaykh Nawwaf] We reject dialogue with a tyrant whose hands are stained by our martyrs' blood. And why a dialogue, when there is international consensus on condemnation of his aggression, oppression, and treason? A dialogue over what, when the world has unanimously agreed on the need for his withdrawal from our territory? His aggression and treason were sinful and terrible. He did not respect values and charters. Nor did he respect fraternity and neighborliness, or even human rights, in his ugly barbarian practices.

We reject dialogue with him. The issue is now between him and the world. International support not only indicates support for the truth and the UN Charter, but is also designed to deter aggression against homelands, sanctity, honor, and property.

Indeed, we yearn for any peaceful step that would restore rights to their owners. And we would do our utmost for any peaceful action that led to the liberation of Kuwait, whether that action was within the UN framework or any other framework.

[AL-HAWADITH] Would you make concessions to resolve the crisis?

[Shaykh Nawwaf] The Kuwaiti people and their leadership have taken a clear and unambiguous decision—not to make concessions over Kuwait's sovereignty, not to accept any solution which we see as affecting sovereignty, and not to forfeit a single inch of Kuwaiti territory. Let me ask: Should the aggressor be rewarded for his aggression? Should nations and the peoples be appropriated by the logic of force and betrayal? True, the Kuwaiti people are peaceful and small in number, but they are big in their hopes, aspirations, and ambitions. And Almighty God will grant us victory.

[AL-HAWADITH] Are the international resolutions sufficient to deter him and secure his withdrawal?

[Shaykh Nawwaf] No one wants war. The region has experienced enough wars, especially as both sides would be losers in such a war. We hope that the crisis will be resolved peacefully by implementing Arab League resolutions, Islamic Conference Organization resolutions, and UN Security Council resolutions.

We pray to God to spare this region wars and predicaments and spare its peoples the bloodshed and destruction that accompany wars. We have urged the tyrant of Baghdad to respond, and continue to hope that he will respond to the international community's resolutions, choose peace, and spare the region a horrific disaster, God forbid. We hope that the international resolutions will influence those around him and that he will submit to the decisions of international conscience, restore the situation to the status quo ante 2 August, and spare the region and the world the disaster of war.

[AL-HAWADITH] And do you really aspire to that?

[Shaykh Nawwaf] All the schemes which he has so far implemented have failed. And the mask of heroism and false claims which he has launched from time to time has now dropped. So now he has no other option but to withdraw. He took the decision to withdraw from Iranian territory and in minutes abandoned everything for Iran, thus squandering the martyrs' blood shed over eight years. So why does he not take his decision to withdraw from Kuwait, thus sparing his people what they have suffered for years as a result of his insistence on continuing injustice and aggression? So a peaceful solution is possible for Saddam, namely by withdrawing his forces from Kuwait. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] And what if if Saddam continues to refuse to respond to the peace calls?

[Shaykh Nawwaf] I reemphasize to you that everyone wants peace and a diplomatic solution. But when the tyrant of Baghdad insists on war, that, regrettably, will be a bad decision by an idiot. This is because his decision for war will be against the entire world, which has emphasized its rejection of war and chosen peace. It started with sanctions in the hope that he would submit, but if he does not, then the following of words of Almighty God will apply: "And fight them until there is no tumult or oppression." [Koranic verse] [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Could Saddam reach and destroy the oilfields in the other Gulf states? What is your military view on that?

[Shaykh Nawwaf] We have known him as a tyrant who lives in delusions. He has covered the walls of Baghdad and other cities with his portraits. He has built his statues and idols in all the towns and villages and throughout Baghdad. He has turned battlefield areas into fields for images and idols. He is an arrogant and conceited person, which is why he is extravagant in making statements here and there. If he can reach the oilfields, why has he not gone there? I think that his statement needs a psychiatric opinion, not a military, security opinion. Anyhow, he is now surrounded by world military preparations using the most sophisticated technologies of the age, and I do not think he is serious in his threats. These forces have the means which can prevent him from reaching Gulf oilfields. And there is a lot of exaggeration in his threats with regard to chemical and biological warfare. There are military and security

means which can neutralize these things, including anti-missile missiles. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Have the Peninsula Shield forces been reinforced?

[Shaykh Nawwaf] Of course. The brother defense ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council states have taken the decisions to reinforce, support, and back the Peninsula Shield Force with air support and other forces.

[AL-HAWADITH] Are you supplying the Kuwaiti resistance inside the country with arms and heavy equipment?

[Shaykh Nawwaf] The Kuwaiti resistance is playing its role. Its members' efforts are appreciated, may God help them to succeed in their task. Any citizen who cares about his country, territory, honor, and property has joined them. They are a group of the people's faithful sons spontaneously playing the courageous role which the homeland needs. And that is natural from Kuwait's sons. Of course we are helping them. And I would like to tell you that most of the heavy weapons have been captured from Iraqi soldiers.

[AL-HAWADITH] Do believe that the Soviet role has changed since Soviet envoy Primakov's tour?

[Shaykh Nawwaf] The world's states, especially the permanent member states of the UN Security Council, have taken a stand based on maintaining world security and peace and renouncing aggression. The world has confronted the Iraqi aggression and its aggressive practices in Kuwait not only for the sake of Kuwait's relations with the world's states, but because the international position proceeds from the principle of maintaining the world's peace, security, and values. This is because a state armed to the teeth cannot invade an independent, peaceful state for the sake of a tyrant's wealth and expansionist and aggressive dreams.

The Soviet Union's position on the sinful aggression is still the same. It has not changed. Proceeding from a fixed position, the Sovigt Union condemned the Iraqi invasion and demanded the immediate withdrawal and the restoration of legitimacy. [passage omitted]

Minister on Army Brigades, Military Actions

LD0811214790 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1943 GMT 8 Nov 90

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message" program]

[Text] The minister of defense, Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, has said that the reformation of two brigades of the Kuwaiti Army has been completed and they have been supplied with all equipment and arms. One brigade has joined the joint forces stationed on the Kuwaiti border. Two more brigades are being prepared.

He confirmed in an interview with the Bahraini AL-AYYAM published today that the Kuwaiti Air Force had confronted the Iraqi invasion and launched several raids against it. The Air Force obstructed the advance of many columns, and those taken prisoner from the invading forces admitted this.

He said the invasion forces seized 150 Kuwaiti Hawk missiles, but he doubted their ability to use them because Kuwaiti Army technicians damaged their launch bases following the entry of the invasion forces. Also the Kuwaiti Forces were able to destroy the warning balloon that was erected between al-Jahra and al-Matl'a, thus keeping the Iraqis from seizing it.

Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad urged Saddam Husayn to listen to Arab and international will and withdraw from Kuwait. He added that 95 percent of peaceful efforts have been exhausted and he hoped that the remaining meager percentage would lead to a positive result, otherwise a military solution is unavoidable. He stressed that Kuwaiti will not concede a foot of its territory and will make no concessions.

Somali Prime Minister Arrives With Message

Received by Amir

LD0711173190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1522 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Al-Ta'if, 7 Nov, SPA—His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, today received Hawadle Madar Mohammed, the prime minister of the Somali Democratic republic, who conveyed a message to him from his brother the Somali President, Mohamed Siad Barre, on the fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries. [passage omitted]

Meets With Heir Apparent

LD0711203890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1850 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 7 Nov (SPA)—His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister of Kuwait, today met with Mohamed Hawadle Nadar, the prime minister [as received] of the Republic of Somalia. They discussed the situation created by the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait, in addition to the two countries' relations and the means for strengthening them in all spheres.

The Somali prime minister reiterated his country's firm stand rejecting the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait and stated the need for the Iraqi regime to obey the will of the international community, withdraw from the State of Kuwait, and [allow] the legitimate government to return.

For his part His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah al-Sabah expressed the appreciation of the State of Kuwait, the government, and the people for Somalia, its president, government, and people for their courageous stand on the Iraqi aggression and their support for the State of Kuwait in facing up to the criminal Iraqi invasion.

Oman

Information Minister Comments on Gulf Crisis

NC0711175990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas has stated that Iraq's occupation of Kuwait poses a threat to the entire Arab order. He called on all the Arabs to do their utmost to end this occupation so that Iraq may respond to international legitimacy and withdraw from Kuwait. He said such an end would restore Arab solidarity.

In a statement to MENA, 'Abd-al-'Aziz said that this is the first crisis that has divided the Arabs, noting that previous crises had united the Arabs and brought them closer together.

Qabus Receives Letter From Romanian President

JN0711121190 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, God preserve him, has received a written message from Romanian President Ion Iliescu. Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state foreign affairs, received the message during his meeting this morning with (Theodor Molikov), Romanian Foreign Ministry under secretary, who is currently visiting the country.

Netherlands State Minister for Defense Arrives

JN0211134990 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Mr. Van Voorst tot Voorst, Netherlands minister of state for defense affairs, arrived in the country today with the military delegation accompanying him on an official visit to the Sultanate lasting several days.

There to receive him on arrival at al-Sib International Airport was Defense Ministry Under Secretary Sayf Bin-Hamad al-Battashi, the accredited Netherlands' ambassador to the Sultanate, and a number of ranking officers of the Sultani Armed Forces.

Officials Hold Meeting

JN0411080590 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] His Highness Fahr Bin-Taymur Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, received at his office at the Bayt al-Falaj camp at noon today Mr. Van Voorst tot Voorst, Netherlands minister of state for defense affairs, and the military delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, they reviewed issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Defense Ministry Under Secretary Sayf Bin-Hamad al-Battashi and a number of officials from the office of his highness the deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs.

Decree Grants Bonuses to Military, Civil Servants

JN0111204390 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] The Sultanate Court has issued the following decision:

A Court Decision No. 3/90 issued under royal directives.

As an expression of joy over the 20th anniversary of the blessed march of our development, and out of the appreciation of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id—may God protect him—for the efforts being exerted by his sons, the individuals of the Defense and National Security Units and the civil service and public institutions employees, who are faithfully contributing to transforming noble hopes and objectives into comprehensive development and a generous march on the road of progress and prosperity, his majesty—may God protect him—has made a royal gesture as follows:

1. The individuals of the Defense and National Security Units shall be granted a bonus two times equal to their basic salaries. This applies to commanders and high-ranking officers whose basic monthly salaries are over 500 Omani riyals. The rest of officers and soldiers whose basic salaries total 500 Omani riyals or less shall be given a bonus equal to three times their basic salaries.

2. The employees of the Sultanate Court, the civil service, and public institutions, shall be given a bonus two times equal to their basic salaries. This applies to Omani employees who occupy a position in the special grade, special payrolls, or the first step of the ordinary payrolls. Omani employees who occupy a position in the second and third steps of the ordinary payrolls shall be given a bonus equal to three times their basic salaries. Non-Omanis who occupy a position in the Sultanate Court, the civil service, and public institutions, shall also be given a bonus equal to the basic salary for one month.

This decision shall be published in the official gazette and shall take effect the day it is issued.
Issued on 12 Rabi' Thani 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 1 November 1990.
Signed: Sayf Bin-Hamad Bin-Sa'ud, minister of the Sultanate Court.

Agreement Signed on Satellite Ground Station

NC0711203090 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] His Excellency Ahmad Bin-Suwaydan al-Balushi, minister of post, telegraph, and telephone, today signed an agreement to establish a standard ground station in 'Ibri Province which will cost 2,361,197 Omani riyals. According to the agreement, the U.S. Scientific Atlanta Company, which will carry out the project, will design, supply, assemble, and operate a standard ground station

to be linked to the satellite orbiting over the Atlantic, through which most international communications with countries across the Atlantic will pass.

The project, which will be completed in 15 months, will employ the most updated digital technology to cope with increasing international communications. The station will also support the already existing ground stations in the country. The signing was attended by His Excellency Nur Bin-Muhammad Bin-'Abd-al-Rahman, executive manager of the public telecommunications authority.

Qatar

French Defense Minister Views Peaceful Solution

JN0711144390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, 7 Nov (WAKH)—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement has stressed that all indications prove that the international economic embargo on Iraq will be effective and that the unity of the international community will make Iraq renege on its error.

In an interview in today's issue of the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB, Chevenement said it was his conviction that before resorting to a war whose consequences are unknown, peaceful means must be sought to establish a constant balance between the principal forces in the region to make sure that Iraq will accept and respect in future international charters limiting nuclear and chemical weapons.

He added: Those who believe that modern warfare is nothing more than electronic machinery are wrong, because there is the battlefield, men, sweat, and blood.

Chevenement stressed France's commitment to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. He said that erasing the borders of a country by military force is unacceptable. He added that it is important for the countries supporting Kuwaiti rights to have the factor of time on their side.

On France's role in the Arab region, the French defense minister explained that this role is confined to helping the Arab world, as much as possible, to enter the modern and contemporary world; more precisely, to enter the spirit of the age, which requires the two sides of the Mediterranean Sea to talk to each other and develop in parallel.

Saudi Arabia

King Reviews Gulf, Administrative Reorganization

LD0811175590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1537 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 8 Nov (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, answered questions from chief editors of the national press on many issues, including the expected administrative reorganization.

He said: I previously announced on many occasions our determination to implement the important reorganizations we believe would serve the general interest of the state and help it perform its tasks in line with the overall development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and in a way that would met the required integration of responsibility. These include the basic system of ruling, the consultative council, and the system of provinces. All these will be within the framework of the Islamic faith, which we all adhere to and are eager to implement.

He added: We spent some time completing some aspects that emerged during the thorough studies to bring these important issues to a stage of implementation, and I examined the previous and consequent studies at the beginning of this year. I am pleased that they are now at the final stages. There will be an announcement about their implementation, as soon as ther final draft is complete, by honest and responsible men, who are all worthy of absolute trust in carrying out this task, God willing. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on the freedom of the individual, the king said: The freedom of the individual in this country is secured by the Islamic faith in practice, expression, rights, and duties, within the framework of not harming others and not violating Islamic teachings or the existing rules. The citizen is free to contact any official, and there is no door that will be closed to them by any official.

Answering a question on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's stand on the Gulf crisis, the custodian of the two holy mosques said: Our stand on the regrettable Gulf events is clear, and it is based on the tenets we have repeatedly mentioned. It is essentially based on the resolutions of the recent emergency Arab summit in Cairo and the Islamic Conference Organization and the UN security council resolutions: The unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territory; the reinstatement of Kuwaiti legitimacy under the leadership of Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, his heir apparent, and government; and the withdrawal of Iraqi troops deployed on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's border, with the provision of international safeguards that these aggressions will not recur. We see no other solutions for peace in the region except those mentioned.

Regarding reports on the presence of friendly forces in the Kingdom, the King said: I have repeatedly said that, after we became certain of the Iraqi president's position, his lack of commitment to the promises and pledges he made, and after it became confirmd beyond any doubt that he was planning something against the Kingdom after his invasion of Kuwait, we took the initiative of requesting forces from sisterly Arab and Islamic—and some friendly countries—to support and help our Armed Forces in their task of defending the Kingdom and its vital constituents. We do not see anything wrong with

that, particularly since senior 'ulema, many experts in jurisprudence, and learned men throughout the world have declared that it was premissible to seek the help of forces of friendly countries to support the Kingdom in its defense of its territories. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on PRC Minister's Visit

Talks Held on Kuwait, Relations

LD0811185590 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Saudi-Sino talks began this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry in Riyadh. The Saudi side was led by the foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and the Chinese side by Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

The talks dealt with the unjust Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait and the united international stand determined to implement the UN Security Council resolutions, all of which were supported by the PRC, and which stress the unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, return of legitimacy to Kuwait, and the need to maintain a united international stand to implement fully the Security Council resolution. Relations between the Kingdom and the PRC and ways to develop them were reviewed during the meeting. [passage omitted]

Qian Calls For UN Solution

LD0811190890 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] The Chinese foreign minister has stressed the need to reach a just solution to the crisis of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait based on the UN Security Council resolutions on the issue.

In press statements made today following his meeting with the foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Chinese minister said that the two sides expressed their utmost concern about the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait, and the two sides believe that time has come to think and deliberate about a complete and just solution based on the rulings of the UN Security Council. The Chinese minister reaffirmed his country's opposition to the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, as well as its demand that Iraq withdraw all its military forces without any conditions. He said that Chiha's stand vis-a-vis the Iraqi aggression is clear, and on the basis of this China voted in favor of 10 UN Security Council resolutions and has strictly implemented the stipulations of the resolutions.

In a press statement published today, the Chinese foreign minister said that the game played by the Iraqi regime against the detained hostages is not a clever one, and that it is going to be the loser inevitably because Iraq is looking through one eye while the world is looking at it and at its interests through many eyes. He reaffirmed that the situation will finally turn out in favor of the oppressed, however long it takes. The Chinese official talked about Iraq's attempt to create a rift in the unanimous European stand against the Iraqi aggression, and stressed that Iraq's attempt to crate a rift in that stand is more like a dream.

Praises Kingdom's Response

LD0811222590 Riyadh SPA in English 2050 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 8 Nov (SPA)—PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen stressed that the Kingdom's invitation of fraternal and friendly forces to repulse the Iraqi aggression threatening it is a natural right and a legitimate request that no one can object to or dispute.

He said in a press statement issued today that "the Kingdom is a state free, like the other states of the world, to do what it sees fit to protect its territory and sovereignty."

He confirmed that the PRC did not hesitate in its stand and support for the Kingdom at the UN Security Council and considered the measures taken by the Kingdom as its duty and natural right. He explained that the position adopted by the PRC regarding Iraqi aggression against Kuwait is linked directly to the united stand at the Security Council and that it is opposed to rape, oppression, and injustice. He stressed that the PRC is committed to the Security Council resolutions and will implement all its resolutions.

He pointed out that the peaceful solutions to the crisis remain in narrow and critical channels. He urged Iraq to withdraw immediately from Kuwait without any prior conditions or promises and confirmed that the Iraqi's remaining in Kuwait means that Iraq is walking in the dark and forlorn tunnel. Qian confirmed that time is not on Iraq's side because Iraq, by staying in Kuwait, is dragging itself into the abyss in return for things that can perish from one moment to another, today, tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Somali Prime Minister Arrives With Message

To Discuss Gulf Crisis

JN0711194090 Manama WAKH In English 1645 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 7 (GNA)—Somalian Prime Minister Mohamed Hawadle Madar arrived here this evening at the head of a high ranking delegation on a visit to the UAE [United Arab Emirates] during which he will convey a message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Somalian President Mohamed Siad Barre.

He was received by UAE Vice-President and Prime Minister Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid al-Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum. In a statement on arrival, Hawadle

said his visit was aimed at exchanging views with UAE officials in the light of the escalating events in the Gulf crisis. He also said he will hold talks with officials here on ways of boosting bilateral relations as well as reviewing the current Arab situation in addition to issues of mutual concern.

Received by President

JN0811112390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 Nov (WAKH)—Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates president, has received a message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre concerning developments in the region in light of the continued Iraqi occupation of the fraternal State of Kuwait and relations between the two countries.

The message was delivered by Somali Prime Minister Hawadle Madar Mohammed when the United Arab Emirates president received him and his delegation in Abu Dhabi today.

Netherlands Minister Leaves After Military Talks

JN0711093690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1158 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Dubayy, 6 Nov (WAKH)—Berend-Jan Baron Van Voorst tot Voorst, the Netherlands secretary of state for defense, left here today after a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. The Netherlands minister had held talks with senior UAE officials on bilateral military cooperation and regional developments.

Yemen

*Media 'Pact' Responds to Saudi Media Attacks

91P40029A Paris AL-YAWM AL-SABI' in Arabic 29 Oct 90 p 9

[Editorial Report] On 29 October the Arabic-language Paris magazine AL-YAWM AL-SABI' published an article on page 9 entitled "Yemeni Media 'Pact' on Dealing With the Gulf Crisis." The article described recent Saudi Arabian media attacks on Yemen and reported that, as a result, government and nongovernment media officials in Yemen, including the minister of information, held a series of meetings in Sanaa to discuss how they should address the crisis "without resorting to the practice of some Arab newspapers of hurling insults." According to the article, the attendees reached an agreement consisting of four points which are compulsory for all independent, party, and official newspapers in Yemen:

- Clarification of all of the national ramifications of the official government position.
- Noninvolvement in media bickering harmful to relations between Yemen and its neighbors.
- Disclosure of all allegations questioning Yemeni unity, and objective response to media attacks against Yemen and its leadership.
- Treatment of the returning Yemeni emigres' situation without referring to the difficulties they have endured and are enduring before entering the Republic of Yemen.

Fees, Customs Tariffs on Trade Goods Revoked

JN0211130190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Republican Decree No. 20]

[Text] Taking cognizance of the agreement on the proclamation of the Republic of Yemen, the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, Republican Decree No. 7 of 1969 levying a defense fee of 5 percent of the value of all imported and exported goods, Republican Decree No. 8 of 1969 levying a customs statistical fee of 3 percent of the value of all the imported goods, Law No. 18 of 1974 concerning the balance of prices fund and its amendments, Republican Decree No. 16 of 1990 setting custom tariffs, and Republican Decree No. 1 of 1990 forming the Council of Ministers, and according to the presentation of the finance minister, and after the endorsement of the Council of Ministers and the Presidential Council, the chairman of the Presidential Council has decided:

Item No. 1: The defense fee on all imported and exported goods decreed by decision No. 7 of 1969 will be revoked. Also will be revoked are the customs tariff levied on all imported goods according to law No. 8 of 1969, and added tax decreed according to item 1 of Article 10 of law No. 18 of the year 1974 concerning the balancing of prices fund and its amendments.

Item No. 2: This resolution will become effective according to a law from the date of its release, and will be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidency in Sanaa on 13 Rabi' Thani 1411 Hejira corresponding to 1 November 1990.
[signed] Lieutenant General 'Adli 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council; Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, prime minister; 'Alawi Salih al-Salami, minister of finance.

Saddam To Release 50 Additional Germans, Others

Meets Willy Brandt

JN0811174090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn received former FRG Chancellor Willy Brandt today. During the meeting, Mr. Willy Brandt expressed thanks and appreciation for the president leader's decision to grant a large number of German and European nationals the right to travel. They discussed the situation in the region and a number of international issues of joint interest.

Mr. Willy Brandt appealed to the president leader to increase the number of German and European nationals whom his excellency agreed to grant the right to leave yesterday amounting to 120 people.

In response to Mr. Willy Brandt's plea, leader President Saddam Husayn added another 50 people to the number his excellency had agreed to, including 20 Germans, 15 Italians, 10 Netherlanders, and five Britons.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

More Germans, Others in Group

LD0911113290 Hamburg DPA in German 1033 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad (DPA)—Almost 200 Germans and other foreigners who had received permission to depart from Iraq, within the context of the private mission by Social Democratic Party honorary chairman Willy Brandt, prepared on Friday in Baghdad for the trip home. The Lufthansa special plane standing by at Baghdad airport since Brandt's arrival last Monday was due to take off for Frankfurt at around 1800 local time (1600 Central European Time). Delays, however, cannot be excluded. The plane is expected in Frankfurt at around 2100. [passage omitted]

According to the German Embassy, Brandt's mission has led to the release of 188 people in all. These are 136 Germans, 17 Italians, 11 Netherlanders, 10 Britons, four Americans and one person each from Canada, Ireland, Switzerland, Belgium, Greece, Portugal, Luxemburg, Sweden, Norway, and Finland. There are also several wives and children who had remained behind voluntarily.

Forty-two of those released—33 Germans, five Britons, and all four Americans—had spent the last months as "human shields" against an attack at strategically important Iraqi locations. They are among the hostages most affected psychologically and physically. The two former ambassadors in Kuwait are in the German group, Klaus Soenksen (West) and Kurt Merkel (East), as well as several other relatives of the Federal Republic's Kuwait mission, which has been closed in the meantime. [passage omitted]

Around 200 Germans will remain behind in Iraq after the release brought about by Brandt. [passage omitted]

U.S., UK 'Guests' Interviewed on Treatment

LD0811230390 Baghdad International Service in English 2100 GMT 8 Nov 90

["Guest Interviews"; interviews with Norman Johnson and Derek Hilton from Britain, and Paul Elliot from the United States, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; introductory paragraph read by announcer—live or recorded]

[Text] This is Radio Baghdad, the broadcasting service of the Iraqi Republic. Dear listeners, now we've interviews with foreign nationals in Iraq. [brief music]

[Correspondent] Mr. Norman Johnson from England would like to speak:

[Johnson] I would just like to speak to my wife and children and tell them that I am ok. Being well looked after.

[Correspondent] How do you find the treatment here [words indistinct]?

[Johnson] Reasonably well, ok.

[Correspondent] How do you accept the initiative of using the telephone to contact your family?

[Johnson] I think it was very good. As long as we can do it once every two weeks. [brief music]

[Correspondent] Mr. Derek Hilton from Britain. We'd like to know from you, to tell us about your stay here in Iraq. Tell us about the treatment you receive. [words indistinct]

[Hilton] Well, the treatment's been ok so far, no problems. We've been fairly treated, given adequate toiletries, etc.

[Correspondent] Thank you. And how do you spend your time [words indistinct].

[Hilton] Well, we're (?sort of dwelling) in a desert of boredom at the moment. We tend to play repetitive games like pool, backgammon, reading, walking round the square—not very conducive to exercising properly—but otherwise we've been treated fairly well.

[Correspondent] How do you look at the initiative of using the telephone to contact your...

[Hilton, interrupting] I thought it was a very good gesture and I think one telephone call's worth maybe more than five letters. We've been supplied with a couple of videos which have passed away a few hours.

[Correspondent] You have films here on video you can...

[Hilton, interrupting] Yeah, occasionally we get the odd film.

[Correspondent] What films do you prefer?

[Hilton] What films do I prefer?

[Correspondent] Yes.

[Hilton] Well, anything that's reasonably good, full of action.

[Correspondent] I see.

[Hilton] Documentaries.

[Correspondent] (?What do you want to say to) your family?

[Hilton] Well, I'd just like to say to my family back in England that I miss them, obviously. And my daughter just done her exams in school, both done very well. So, I'm pleased for them. And, I just miss them. I think they miss me.

[Correspondent] I see.

[Hilton] I'm just hoping for the day when I return home.

[Correspondent] Anything else to add or...

[Hilton, interrupting] No, not really, no. I just hope everything turns out fine and all the guests that have been here, like, go home.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] and how do you feel about the visits paid by the prominent figures who are, prominent figures, coming here to Iraq?

[Hilton] Well, I'm pleased to see that some politicians have shown some initiative and taken guests home with them, and, hopefully, more will come and take other guests soon.

[Correspondent] Mr. Paul Elliot, from the United States.

[Elliot] I'd like to say hello to Angela, Nicole, and Alex, and I hope to see them soon.

[Correspondent] How do you find the treatment here?

[Elliot] It's adequate.

[Correspondent] We would like from you a word to say, to appeal for the world...

[Elliot, interrupting] I wish...

[Correspondent, interrupting] For the coming (?New Year).

[Elliot] I wish that everybody will get what is due to them and everybody will be happy.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Elliot] Thank you.

[Correspondent] Anything else to add for...

[Elliot, interrupting] Nothing else. I'm just looking forward to seeing my family again. See you soon.

UK Wives, Swiss Officials To Visit Baghdad

JN0811190690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] London, 8 Nov (INA)—A group of 10 British women left for Baghdad today on a visit to last several days to see their husbands, who are guests of Iraq.

Meanwhile, Mr. Jean Ziegler [name as received], Socialist member of the Swiss Federal Assembly, has announced that he will travel to Baghdad on Wednesday heading a delegation of four parliamentarians.

In a statement today, Ziegler did not name the other parliamentarians. However, he did say that they belong to three parties: the Social Democratic Party, the Christian Democratic People's Party, and the Radical Democratic Party. They also represent ranking political and cultural groups.

Ziegler declared that his mission is widely supported by most public opinion sectors in Switzerland.

Red Cross Officials To See 'Guests'

JN0911121390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Nov (INA)—Karl Van der Koo [name as received], the director general of the Belgian Red Cross Society, arrived in Baghdad this evening at the head of a delegation on a several-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent, he said the purpose of his visit is to hold talks with officials at the Iraqi Red Crescent Society on the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people such as medical supplies, medicines, foodstuffs, and baby milk. In addition, he will be visiting the Belgian nationals who are guests of the Iraqi people.

Dr. Laili Vittori [name as received], the responsible official for the affairs of volunteers in the Italian Red Cross Society, also arrived in Baghdad this evening heading a delegation on a visit to Iraq lasting several days.

He said in a statement to IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that during his visit he will hold talks with officials at the Iraqi Red Crescent on cooperation in the humanitarian fields between the two societies, in addition to visiting a number of the Italian nationals who are guests of the Iraqi people.

Use of Medicine for Chemical Weapons Denied

JN0911112090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1051 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Nov (INA)—An official spokesman at the Foreign Ministry today made the following statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY:

On 7 November, news agencies reported statements made by the chairwoman of the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee and Finland's representative at the

Council claiming that Iraq has imported large quantities of medicines to the extent that she fears they may be used in the manufacture of biological or chemical weapons. The Finnish representative said that although she had no evidence of this, she had some fears that this has happened because Iraq has apparently ordered 10 years' worth of medical supplies.

Iraq categorically denies this overt, prejudiced allegation. It is known that pharmaceuticals cannot be stored for long periods of time, and that the expiration time for medicines ranges between one and five years. This unequivocally refutes the Finnish representative's claims from a scientific viewpoint. We also wish to point out that a number of states have not yet allowed Iraq to buy medicines, and that some of the orders made before 2 August 1990—the value of which was paid by Iraq—were not delivered by some states, particularly the United States of America.

This statement, which is based on clear fabrications, is designed to place additional restrictions on the export of medicines to Iraq—which is being done by some good people—and at absorbing the humanitarian anger against the U.S. measures to prevent medicine from reaching Iraq.

Baker-Fahd Accord Shows Saudi 'Shallowness'

JN0911095690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0822 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, has stressed that the Baker-Fahd agreement reveals the whole truth about the major conspiracy against the Arabs and Muslims, which the betrayer of the two holy mosques, his masters, and allies tried to hide.

Commenting on the declaration issued following the visit to Saudi Arabia by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker regarding the agreement on the command of the U.S. invasion forces in the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], the first deputy prime minister said in a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY today: The Fahd-Baker agreement is a clear message to those Arab rulers who attended the notorious Cairo summit and approved of the conspiratorial resolutions to provide an Arab cover for the presence of U.S. and foreign forces in order to stage an aggression against Iraq.

The first deputy prime minister wondered: What will those Arab rulers say now after the Fahd-Baker agreement, and after hearing the agent Fahd say at the Cairo summit that the U.S. and foreign forces came to protect Saudi security and not to stage an aggression against any Arab country?

Taha Yasin Ramadan said: What will be these rulers' position now after the clear Fahd-Baker agreement? Do they still believe Fahd's lies that the foreign troops, which he himself invited to the land of Najd and Hejaz, have come to protect Saudi security? Have they not come to stage aggression against Iraq and place the Arab nation's resources, sacred places, and economy under the hegemony of the United States and its allies?

Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed: The Fahd-Baker agreement is very clear, and all attempts to mix trenches, shuffle cards, and deceive have failed. The shining fact is that the betrayer of the two holy mosques has decided to offer the most sacred Arab and Muslim land to the infidels and polytheists to serve as the base for aggression against Arabs and their sacred places—at the head of which is Iraq.

The first deputy prime minister added: The rulers of Najd and Hejaz have made this sacred land, to which Arabs and Muslims travel from all over the world to meditate and pray to God Almighty, into a base for hegemony and aggression. Throughout its history, this land was the land of peace, amity, and good. It has been transformed into a meeting place for all evildoers of the world after it was the meeting place for all the Arab and Muslim good and faithful.

The first deputy prime minister stressed that the Baker-Fahd agreement shows the shallowness of the rulers of Najd and Hejaz, their agentry to the Americans and loss of their free will, and the fact they have become obedient tools at the hands of the Zionist and U.S. imperialists to execute their schemes against Arab and Muslim sacred places and against Arab liberation and renaissance.

Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed high confidence that the Muslims, Arabs, and all good people in the world will be able to confront all forces of evil and destroy their tools of aggression, because God Almighty supports the believers, not the aggressors. Ramadan added: God has said in His Holy Book: Before this we wrote in the psalms, after the message given to Moses: "My servants, the righteous shall inherit the earth." Verily, in this Koran is a message for people who would truly worship God. [Koranic verses]

The first deputy prime minister added: Now that the aggressive intentions against the Arabs and Muslims have been confirmed, jihad has become the duty of every Arab and Muslim to defend their sacred places, dignity, and the principles and values which the infidels and the Fahd regime want to destroy and distort.

Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that the Baker-Fahd agreement has exposed the falsity of the slogans and allegations with which the rulers of Najd and Hejaz have tried to cover their agentry and collusion and deceive some people among the Arab nation and Muslims. He noted that the awareness of the Arab masses of the treachery of the betrayer of the two holy mosques will prompt them to fulfill their sacred duty and face the U.S.-Zionist conspiracies.

The first deputy prime minister concluded his statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY by saying: With this disgraceful agreement and loss of free decisionmaking,

the rulers of Najd and Hejaz will burn at the start of any aggression against Iraq, which has become the theater of operations for the comprehensive retaliation to destroy all dens of conspiracy and cleanse the Arab nation of the filth of the agents, the collaborators, and their allies.

Press Considers U.S.-Saudi 'Battle Cry'

JN0911105390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 9 Nov (INA)—The Iraqi press has warned the United States, its allies, and the Arab nation's traitors who colluded with them that the price for aggression against Iraq will be very dear; that oil will only be part of this price; and that they should remember that they are challenging a combatant army which is putting its fingers on the trigger, eager to fight the crucial battle.

In their editorials today, Iraqi newspapers were unanimous in saying that the valiant Iraqi Armed Forces will make the land of "Saudi Arabia" a land and theater for a real war, and will burn and destroy all the vital and economic targets in the region that serve aggression.

The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says: The treacherous agreement to give the United States a free hand to launch aggression against Iraq has put the entire region on the verge of a destructive war in case Washington risks a military operation against the Iraqi forces, and has directly contributed to increasing tension at the time when hopes are rising for a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis.

The paper stresses that this disgraceful agreement constitutes a battle cry, made once again by the U.S. Administration in collusion with the Arab nation's traitors, and a clear statement that the land of Najd and Hejaz will be the base for aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation. Even according to the simplest interpretations, this means that the betrayer of the two holy mosques has directly declared war against Iraq and become a partner in it according to an official, unequivocal, and unambiguous document that cannot have any silly or naive interpretations.

The paper stresses that the valiant Iraqi Army will not exclude the traitors who sided with the aggressive U.S. decision, and that their troops in the land of Najd and Hejaz will be a direct target for our troops because, after this agreement, they will henceforth be treated exactly the same as the U.S. forces of aggression and invasion. The silly allegations about international legitimacy, the UN resolutions, and the defense of so-called Saudi Arabia will be useless from now on.

The paper says: While warning before it is too late from the standpoint of peace, the preservation of blood, and the prevention of war in the region, whose spark may be worldwide, Iraq calls on the states involved in sending their troops to Najd and Hejaz to reconsider their position in light of the suspect agreement between the U.S. Administration and the betrayer of Arabs and Muslims, Fahd. The simplest thing these states can do is to declare, first, that they have nothing to do with this agreement, and then withdraw their troops from the region before they are turned into ashes as a result of any Iraqi retaliation to the U.S. war decisions.

The paper goes on to say: In this regard, we are not making threats against anyone just for the sake of making threats, but we believe that our humanitarian responsibility and natural right to defend our territorial integrity and the Arab nation's sovereignty and dignity prompt us to put words in their rightful places, dot the i's and cross the t's, especially after this aggressive agreement. Therefore, we are painting the picture as it really is, and hope that the states involved in sending their troops to the region will understand the implications of this agreement and the new factor of involvement resulting from it. Witting or not, those states were pushed to participate in the launching of war against Iraq. This means they will be one of the parties responsible for igniting the war and the destructive consequences that will result from it. As for the betrayer of the two holy mosques and the Arab nation's traitors and defeatists siding with him, we will take them and their war machine, regardless of its size, harshly to account when the hour of judgment arrives. If the agent Fahd thinks that his dens will be safe from Iraqi retaliation, or that the land of so-called Saudi Arabia will also be far from the battle arena after he gave the command to the U.S. invasion forces and authorized them to launch war against Iraq, then he has made a major mistake and a fatal sin.

The newspaper stresses that by employing their devastating ability to deter any U.S. aggression, our Armed Forces will make of the land of Saudi Arabia a land and arena for a real battle. The battle will be fought in every place from which the forces of evil will come out, and we will burn and destroy all the vital and economic targets in the region that serve the U.S. aggression, at the head of which are the oil wells, whose wealth the Americans have come to invade, control, and usurp. Let the evildoers know that we will destroy the U.S. aggression, inflict a demoralizing defeat on the invading forces, and burn all tools of that aggression, including agents and interests. Our target will primarily be the base and the starting point of the U.S. aggression. Then all tyrants in the region will have to pay the price. God, we have delivered the message; be our witness. [passage omitted]

Paper Holds 'Traitor' Fahd 'Fully Responsible'

JN0911114690 Baghdad INA in English 1110 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 9 Nov (INA)—[passage omitted] Another Iraqi Paper AL-THAWRAH said that Baker agreement with the traitor Fahd on commanding forces of American invasion in the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] came to confirm the Iraqi sound outlook which had warned against depth of the trends of aggression and the parties that are taking part in. [sentence as received]

It said that realities started indicating that traitor Fahd was turned from a stooge to the White House policy into

a dummy that endorses the aggressive American decisions. Therefore he is playing with fire that will burn not only his hands but his throne and the oil which is being placed under the bayonets of American troops.

AL-THAWRAH newspaper further added that probably the rulers of Najd and Hejaz had forgotten that the American invading troops would not be capable of rendering them protection if fighting breaks out and aggression starts against Iraq. These forces would not also be capable of facing the Arab anger that would be ready to score fatal blows to those who betrayed charters and turned the sacred Arab land into a spring board for war of the American-Zionist plotting and aggression.

The daily held traitor Fahd fully responsibile for any aggressive action or crime that might be committed by America against Iraq and that Iraq would behave on this basis whether in scoring devastating blows to the hide-outs of evil or in the consequent dealing with the chapters of aggression.

Paper Predicts Toppling of Saudi Regime

JN0711122490 Baghdad INA in English 1138 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 7, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper of Baghdad warned against the multiple American design which is after plundering Arab funds, occupying Arab oil resources and containing Arab might with the ultimate object of preventing the Arab nation from demanding its historic rights.

A daily article published here today said that the big funds offered by the Saudi regime and former Kuwaiti rulers to their masters the Americans could have been utilized to cover a large part of the Arab nation needs if they were invested inside the Arab homeland.

The daily concluded by saying that masses of the Arab people were aware of the dangerous American designs and that the day in which the Saudi regime would be toppled is not far.

Beating War Drums Will 'Never Scare The Iraqis'

JN0711122890 Baghdad INA in English 1145 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 7, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily for today advised President Bush that he should perceive that beating drums of war and insistance on implementing this devious policy would lead to nothing but the end of his political life.

In its article, the daily said that the American citizens had the right to question where would these policies lead them as long as they only hear from Bush the rhetoric of threat and menace and war. The paper referred that the Americans should recall several images of Vietnam war tragedies while listening to Bush beating drums of the war and mobilizing their sons in the Arab land.

The paper further said that Bush's policy had made him lose majority of his supporters while his popularity had declined during the past two months only, all that before the eruption of the duel in battle fronts and before corpses of the soldiers return home.

Thus Bush should realise that the bombastic words released on this or that occasion and beating drums of the war would never scare the Iraqis, the Arabs and Muslims who rallied behind the leadership of President Saddam Husayn to fight the infidels.

Kurdish Leader Discusses Anti-Saddam Groups

Groups Wait for 'Day X'

AU0811152090 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 8 Nov 90 p 5

[Michael Lohmeyer report on interview with Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani; place and date of interview not given: "Saddam Will Soon Fall"]

[Text] Vienna—The Iraqi Kurds want to apply a new strategy in their fight against the Baghdad government headed by Saddam Husayn and contribute to the fall of the dictator. Jalal Talabani presented a concept yesterday on how this should be realized. "The most important thing is that we are not used by anybody in the Gulf crisis, that we do not become helpers of one or the other side."

Talabani came directly from a conference in Damascus where eight Iraqi Kurdish organizations, including the "Kurdish Democratic Party," headed by Masud Barzani, formed an action alliance against Saddam Husayn. "We are jointly training resistance fighters and waiting for 'day X,' which we expect to come in the very near future. Saddam's days are numbered." Talabani, who coordinates the international contacts of this coalition, stated that numerous Iraqi officers support the Kurds. In addition, the Army is war weary and wants to prevent a possible defeat in the event of a military confrontation by toppling Saddam Husayn.

The latest tactic adopted by the Kurds is to withdraw into the mountains and avoid clashes with the Iraqi troops. If a new regime in Iraq should not show readiness for dialogue with the Kurds, they will resort to hit and run tactics, which means that they will carry out guerrilla attacks at certain points, and then the units will again disappear in the impassable mountains in the area between the three countries Iraq, Iran, and Turkey.

"The guerrillas are being trained in camps in Kurdistan. The activities there are coordinated by Masud Barzani. There are plans to coordinate political and military actions with the Kurdish groups in Iraq as well in the long run."

Details should be determined at a conference in which all parties of all countries—Iran, Turkey, and Syria—will participate. "The meeting will take place somewhere in Europe." The only party that does not participate in the

alliance is the "Kurdish Workers Party" (PKK) in Turkey which does not want to enter a coalition. It pursues its own military hard-line policy: It rejects negotiations and advocates complete independence. There are about 10 million Kurds in Turkey, which is about 50 percent of the people.

Jalal Talabani is more realistic: "We are striving for far-reaching autonomy. However, in the foreseeable future, a separate Kurdish state is an illusion." The position of the Kurds is also difficult within the United Nations. "The chances that the Kurdish issue will be treated by the UN General Assembly or by the Security Council are practically nonexistent."

In this connection, Talabani also criticizes Austria: The Kurds are not only suffering under Austrian arms exports to the region, but also because "Vienna is not willing to do anything for the Kurds." The refusal to grant financial aid to the Kurdish Center in Vienna testifies to this. This is a matter of course in other countries. Talabani hopes for diplomatic support from France.

Would 'Stay Neutral' in War

AU0911103090 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 9 Nov 90 p 3

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, Iraqi chairman of the Kurdistan Front, by Livia Klingl in Vienna; date not given: "We Will Stay Neutral in Case of War"]

[Text] Vienna—For years the Iraqi Kurds—who have been oppressed, forcibly resettled, and thousands of whom have been killed by poison gas by Saddam Husayn's regime—have unsuccessfully warned the West against the Iraqi dictator. In an interview with DER STANDARD, which he attended accompanied by three Austrian policemen—for the sake of security—Jalal Talabani (56), the Iraqi chairman of the Kurdistan Front, an umbrella organization founded on the basis of all political groups, sees a chance for his people because of the Gulf crisis.

[Klingl] Do you expect a war?

[Talabani] Yes. Saddam Husayn will never withdraw his forces from Kuwait. And the West cannot look on as he keeps Kuwait.

[Klingl] Do you rule out a barter deal in which Saddam may keep the two islands of Warbah and Bubijan?

[Talabani] Yes. Neither the Gulf states nor the United States can give the aggressor a reward.

[Klingl] Is the international embargo effective?

[Talabani] It can be felt. It will make the political and economic situation deteriorate. The protagonists of the government party are afraid. They are afraid that this might mean the end of Saddam's power, and this would be a disaster for them, too.

[Klingl] What is the fighting morale of the Iraqi soldiers like?

[Talabani] They will not fight, they will surrender.

[Klingl] But they did fight in the Iranian-Iraqi war.

[Talabani] Yes, but how. Iran was a weak enemy, without artillery, without an air force, without missiles. Now they would be facing the well-equipped U.S. Army. In addition, in the past all the world was on Iraq's side, now the country is completely isolated. I do not believe that the Iraqi Army could go on for long.

[Klingl] How large is the opposition in Iraq?

[Talabani] The great majority of the Iraqis are against the regime. Do not believe too much in Iraqi propaganda. In our country it is like in the former East Bloc countries. There, too, hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets at the order of the leadership. And at the free elections one could then see for whom they voted.

Saddam is our Ceausescu. He is indeed able to make the masses take to the streets and they cheer him, but the opposition is active, although it is oppressed and thousands have been killed and hundreds of thousands have been deported.

[Klingl] Do you believe that an opposition member might eliminate Saddam?

[Talabani] The opposition does not want to kill Saddam, it wants to overthrow the regime. I am a lawyer, I do not support assassination.

[Klingl] For years the Kurds warned the West against Saddam in vain. Is the current situation a help to you?

[Talabani] Objectively seen, yes. My people are happy that Saddam is isolated, happy that the world sees his true face. Even the Arab allies are now openly talking about the crimes that were committed against the Kurds.

[Klingl] Would the Kurds fight on the side of the Western allies in case of war?

[Talabani] No, we fight our own war and not that of anybody else. We would stay neutral.

[Klingl] Turkey stands on the side of the West. What would the Turkish Kurds do in case of a military conflict?

[Talabani] They will think like us. If Turkey fights against Iraq, our two enemies are fighting each other. Why should we interfere?

[Klingl] How do you see the future of your people?

[Talabani] After Saddam has been driven out of Kuwait, it is absolutely necessary that an international Middle East conference takes place. The first period after the Cold War, the era of Malta and not Yalta, requires dialogue. The region has to be discussed, and this will include the problems of the Palestinians, the Lebanese, and the Kurds. And, above all, democracy.

[Klingl] Do you have corresponding contacts with Western governments?

[Talabani] Yes, we have received positive responses from France, and we have contacts with the British, the Germans, and the Italians.

International Peace Group Briefed on Gulf

JN0311111090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—'Adnan Da'wud Salman—chairman of the Iraqi Organization for Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity—today met with Mario Rotondou [name as received], deputy chairman of the International Organization for Peace and Friendship, who is on a visit to Iraq. Salman reviewed political and military developments in the Arabian Gulf and the dimensions of the American and Zionist practices and provocations against Iraq, as well as their escalation of tension thus threatening the region and the world with a destructive war. He noted Iraq's firm and peaceful stance and its concern to save the region and the world from war through peace initiatives on the basis of justice and equality to solve all problems in the region within an Arab framework.

Rotondou praised President Saddam Husayn's peace initiative of 12 August which expressed Iraq's clear course and serious steps to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

Belgian Friendship Official Praises Initiative

JN0411201490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Nov (INA)—Brant Advns [name as received], deputy chairman of the Belgian-Iraqi Friendship Society, has praised President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative and described it as a principled basis for negotiations to solve all the Arab region's problems.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, he said that the American and NATO military presence in the region will not solve the problem but threatens to ignite a destructive war that will affect the whole world, adding that the Arabs are capable of solving their problems without any foreign interference.

He also said that the economic siege imposed on Iraq by the United States and its allies is an unjust decision against Iraq's children and people and that no such a decision has ever been made against any nation in the world.

He added that when he returns home, he will explain to the Belgian people and officials the sufferings of Iraq's children and people as a result of the unjust U.S. and allied resolutions against Iraq.

Ozal Thanks Saddam for Congratulations Cable

JN0611103090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received a cable from Turkish President Turgut Ozal in response to a cable of congratulations which his excellency sent to the Turkish president on the anniversary of the declaration of the Turkish Republic. The cable contained the following:

On behalf of the Turkish people and in my name personally, I thank you for the message of congratulations you sent on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the Turkish Republic's declaration. On this occasion, I present you with my sincerest wishes for good health and happiness to you personally, and for prosperity to the fraternal Iraqi people.

Article Cites Former Kuwait Provisional Head

JN0711161290 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 7, INA—Deputy Prime Minister Col. 'Ala' Husayn ['Ali, head of former "Provisional Free Kuwait Government"] described the regime of the ousted Kuwaiti Croesus and his corrupt clique as an example of reactionism, backwardness and conspiring against the Arab homeland.

In an article published today by AL-JUMHURIYAH daily, Col. 'Ala' said that the collapse of that regime was a step forward that marked the beginning of an era of progress, free from the remnants of the past and the bitter legacy of long decades of subordination to colonialist circles.

He added that the British colonialists had installed that regime in this part of Iraq in an attempt to deprive it of a strategic position overlooking the sea and to undermine its economy.

Col. 'Ala' made it clear that the corrupt regime was pursuing a carefully planned policy aimed at dividing the Arab entity, irrespective of the humanitarian rules. The deputy premier added that the deposed regime had seized Kuwait's rights and deposited them at foreign banks or investment institutions to buy real estate and entertainment clubs in the United States. He confirmed that the ruling family had held a tight grip of all influential posts to serve its personal interests at the expense of the people.

He pointed out that corrupt regime had resorted to all forms of suppression, terrorism and threat to abort any honourable national attempt trying to establish freedom and justice, confirming that the record of al-Sabah family was rife with such acts.

Col. 'Ala' further said that events following Aug 2, last were an evident proof for the big harm Kuwait's return

to the motherland, Iraq, had caused not only to al-Sabah family and its Croesus, but also to the imperialist and Zionist circles.

He stressed that today the new Iraq, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, is standing firmly against the imperialist-Zionist evil attack, armed with deep faith and strong will.

Cars Without 'Iraq-Kuwait' Plates Restricted

JN0911113690 Kuwait AL-NIDA' in Arabic
5 Nov 90 p 1

[By Nida' Salman]

[Text] An official source at the directorate of the governorate of Kuwait, al-Nida', has stated that, to further facilitate the process of changing the license plates of cars registered in the governorate of Kuwait to the new "Iraq-Kuwait" number plates, it has been decided that the old plates are to be exchanged for new ones after the car's ownership and the personal presence of the owner has been ascertained. A power of attorney from the owner is not acceptable. The address of the owner must be confirmed, regardless of all other forms of identity produced, such as the civil affairs identity card. These provisions are to encourage the owners of these cars to change their car registration plates to new ones.

He added that it has been decided to forbid the purchase and sale of cars that do not carry the license plate "Iraq-Kuwait" starting 3 November 1990. Owners of cars that do not have a license plate of "Iraq-Kuwait" will not be allowed to fill their tanks with gasoline or buy oil. These cars will also not be repaired at garages and trade institutions starting 2 December 1990.

High Production Urged To 'Defeat Blockade'

JN0611175090

[Editorial report] During observations of Baghdad Iraqi Republic Television Network in Arabic television from 13 to 20 October, the station was observed to broadcast a number of programs devoted to agriculture. These programs stressed that Iraq is facing a blockade and has to rely on its own resources.

In the "Agricultural Magazine" program broadcast at 1545 GMT on 13 October, 'Abd-al-Wahid 'Abd-al-Sayyid, the head of the al-Basrah Federation of Peasant Societies tells viewers: "After the call of duty and following the formation of the Higher Agricultural Campaign Committee, the peasants rolled up their sleeves and assumed the responsibility of planting all the arable land that can be irrigated with wheat and barley. Now there are 41,000 dunums [in Iraq one dunum equals 2,500 square meters] ready for plantation. There are 20,000 dunums being prepared and they require certain agricultural services. A committee was formed under the governor and all the agricultural machines in the governorate are now at the service of peasants and agriculture. Peasants are prepared to plant arable land with wheat and barley to break the economic blockade imposed by imperialism and Zionism on our struggling country. The peasants pledge to work to increase production in harmony with the resolutions and great initiatives taken by President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, by relieving the peasants of enlisting in the reserve units or Popular Army, increasing the prices of grain and date crops, and reducing the price of chemical fertilizers."

During the program another agricultural official in Salah-al-Din Governorate speaks about wheat plantation and concludes by saying: "Agriculture is good and is a weapon the leader can use to defeat the economic blockade."

Another daily program on agriculture called "Agricultural Minutes" of 10-13 minutes duration, stresses the same ideas. One such program on 14 October teaches viewers how to use egg shells, empty cans, plastic yogurt cartons, and other containers to plant seeds at home. The "Agricultural Minutes" program at 1543 GMT on 15 October carries the following slogans: "Agriculture is good and is a weapon the leader can use to defeat the economic blockade." The program presenter hopes that "the peasants will be able to realize self-sufficiency in wheat production."

In the 19 October "Agricultural Minutes" at 1417 GMT, a Baghdad resident explains how he is using his garden to grow fruit and vegetables to help in efforts to resist the economic blockade. He also says that he is keeping chickens for meat and eggs and has built an oven to bake bread. He says he produces more than what he needs of fruit, eggs, chicken, and vegetables.

The 20 October "Agricultural Minutes" at 1435 GMT stresses the need not to waste irrigation water and to use it "rationally," thus allowing other farmers also to use irrigation water.

The "Local News" program carried at around 1605 GMT daily reports on meetings in various governorates to discuss "the winter plantation campaign." Meetings stress the need to "foil the economic blockade" and emphasize the use of fertilizers in wheat plantation. In a report within the 1600 GMT "Local News" on 16 October, an agricultural official says that 84,000 tons of high-yield varieties of grain have so far been distributed among farmers. Video shows piles of grain being loaded from Trade Ministry silos. He says these are treated in Iraq to resist pests. The official says that all grain will have been distributed by 16 November. On Thursday, 18 October, two "Agricultural Minutes Programs" were carried, one at 1446 GMT and the other at 1541 GMT. Both programs stress the need to implement the winter plantation campaign and wheat growing. Both programs draw attention to the reduction in the price of fertilizers to 50 Iraqi dinars per metric ton. A peasant says he is willing to plant wheat in order to produce food and "defeat the blockade." He adds: "I should plant wheat in

order to provide food for the people and defeat the blockade." He further says that "the government has given us every facility and we should respond positively." The announcer says that wheat is bought from farmers at 600 dinars per tonne, and that peasants should plant wheat as follows: a) 80 percent of the reclaimed land granted by the state; b) 50-60 percent of the land owned by farmers; and c) 20 percent of the land irrigated by wells.

All agricultural programs emphasize wheat growing and "increasing production and foiling the blockade." Programs also emphasize that the government has increased the price of grain that it buys from the farmers and reduced the price of fertilizers. The government has given state-owned land to peasants provided they plant 80 percent of it with wheat, otherwise it will be taken back from them. Peasants are warned not to eat the seeds that are given to them for planting or to feed them to their domestic animals "because they are treated with poisonous chemicals and can cause paralysis and maybe death." The programs also remind peasants to use fertilizers.

At 1537 GMT on 16 October, the television carries a recorded message from the minister of agriculture on World Food Day. The minister praises Iraqi achievements in the agricultural sector. Referring to the economic blockade against Iraq, the minister says: "Today and following the economic blockade imposed by U.S. imperialism and its wicked allies on our great Iraq, which is bearing the beacon of progress of the Arab nation, the Iraqis have rushed to respond to the call of their historic leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, in order to plant all arable land. On this occasion, I call on all peasants, whose day we celebrate today, to use their resources and plant every inch of land. We remind them of our great leader's generosity represented by increasing the price of their crops of strategic grains, reducing the prices of fertilizers, relieving the peasants from service in the reserve forces and the Popular Army, making land available to them free of charge, and other privileges given to peasants and farmers in order to realize the slogan: agriculture is good and is a weapon the leader can use to defeat the economic blockade."

Within the 1700 GMT newscast on 14 October, the television carries a report on "the seminar for food consumption habits in special circumstances" held in Baghdad organized by the Arab Scientific Research Councils. Opening the seminar, Iraqi Revolution Command Council Member Sa'dun Hammadi says: "The pan-Arab battle we are waging against the imperialist enemies and their allies is successful because it is just and because we are aware of its dimensions. We have prepared all the requirements for this battle and we will exert all our efforts to exploit everything in our land." He adds: "Today they are trying to prevent food from reaching our country but we know that our land is generous and the Iraqis, and the Arabs in general, when they face challenges, can forgo many things in order to defeat the enemies and preserve their land, dignity, and homes."

Arab delegates also speak in the seminar praising Iraq's achievements in the field of food production with the aim of realizing Arab food security.

In a program called "economic affairs" at 1630 GMT on 18 October, a university professor advises producers to participate in the plantation campaign to produce the staple foods of Iraqis. He also advises housewives "to ration food and vegetables" and calls on women's organizations to instruct housewives in this regard. Housewives, he says, should buy only for their family needs and no more. They should store vegetables and fruits in cool places. If fruits and vegetables are left over, they should be preserved, made into jams, or conserved in other forms. He recommends adopting traditional Iraqi means of food conservation because they are very appropriate for Iraq and its people.

In a women's program at 1847 GMT on 13 October, called "She," a college teacher is seen lecturing women students on child nutrition. She urges them to be more diligent in their learning. She says: "This year is a year of challenge to our existence as a nation and people who are proud of their outstanding leadership which is faithful to its principles and which is represented by President Leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him."

The teacher then talks about her experience in her field of specialization. She explains how to use dates in preparing baby food by adding milk, rice, and other ingredients. She says this is tasty and nutritious for babies and adults alike. She notes that she will be presenting recipes for baby food at a seminar to be held within a few days. She advises mothers to cook nutritious food for the whole family and not to cook for each family member separately. This will save cooking gas, time, and money. She concludes by saying: "I think that after this phase, from which I am sure we will emerge triumphant and proud, the Iraqi woman will be very experienced and creative in preparing new types of highly nutritious food."

In another episode of this weekly program at 1807 GMT on 20 October, a teacher of agriculture discusses gardening and the use of pesticides. She urges women not to hoard food at home but in case they have extra food they should preserve it well. She says that "this is a way to resist the fierce aggression led by America."

Agricultural Officials on Winter Campaign

JN0811160790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman, today presided over a meeting of the Higher Agricultural Committee in the Governorate of Salah al-Din. The meeting was attended by comrade Kamil Yasin, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Regional Command and secretary of the Party organization in central Iraq; Salah al-Din Governor (Yahya al-'Ali); and the comrade secretary of the Salah al-Din branch of the party.

They discussed the appropriate means to develop the requirements of the agricultural drive for the winter and to study the agricultural background of the regions involved in the campaign.

The RCC vice chairman issued instructions on the need to provide all farmers with the full facilities required to meet the aspired to agricultural goals and ensure strategic crops for the country, thus thwarting the economic siege imposed on our steadfast and struggling Iraq by the United States and its allies and agents.

The members of the Agricultural Committee in Salah al-Din Governorate promised leader President Saddam Husayn to double their efforts to make the great agricultural winter drive a success and thwart the imperialists' economic siege on our great Iraq.

Planes To Aid With Artificial Rain Production

JN0811115490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Nov (INA)—Experts at the Industry and Military Industrialization Ministry have managed to develop a number special planes to be used for inducing cloud condensation to generate artificial rainfall.

The Iraqi papers quoted Mr. 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid, a senior Ministry official, as saying that the process, which will help the campaign for winter planting, consists of spraying the clouds with certain chemicals to condense water particles around them; this water then falls as rain to irrigate farms as required.

He said the chemicals used in the operation are produced locally and have no side effects on plants.

Land Reclamation Project Conducted in Babylon

JN0911041590 Baghdad INA in English 1315 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 8, INA—Some 190,000 donums (a donum=2,500 square metres) have been recently reclaimed in Babylon Province as part of a national campaign to cultivate lands with grain and basic crops. The campaign aims at foiling the U.S.-led economic blockade against Iraq by helping to attain self-sufficiency in strategic crops and ensuring the national food security programme.

According to Mayor Karim Mahmud Husayn, the agricultural authorities in the province are pressing hard to complete the project on which work started last November and which would help bring more land under cultivation. Farmers have already cultivated the reclaimed land with wheat and barley. Reclamation of more than 200,000 donums is underway.

This year's plantation plan in the province shows that 209,000 donums have been allocated for wheat and 447,000 donums for barley while 152,000 donums are prepared to be cultivated with crops like soya beans, lentils and chick peas.

The government has encouraged farmers to cultivate lands and helped them increase production of cereals. All the facilities and relevant services have been put at the disposal of the agricultural sector and plans were set up to meet farmers' requirements of seeds, pesticides, fertilizers and planting and harvesting machines, said Mr. Husayn.

More than 233,512 plots of Arabic land owned by the government have been leased by private farmers for only little fees in conformity with Law No. 32 of 1982 and Law No. 364 of 1990.

Babylon Province topped other provinces in the production of corn where more than 120,000 donums have been planted with it.

Extensive work is currently underway [on the] drainage system together with levelling work. Work now is in progress to clear 65 km-long drainage canals of alluvium.

350-km-long drainage canals have been cleared in the districts of al-Hashimiyah, al-Musayyib, al-Shawmali and al-Kifl. Agriculture and irrigation bodies at the province have completed the drainage work of 384-km-long irrigation canals, mayor of the province said.

Farmers have been given all the incentives to expand the scope of their production to boost the country's national production, Mr. Husayn added.

Comparison of Defense Directorate Communique No. 3

JN0711193890

Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic in its 5 November issue on page 6 carries Communique No. 3 issued by the Iraqi Mobilization and Statistics Directorate. The AL-QADISIYAH communique has been compared with the Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic version published in the 6 November Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 29, revealing the following variation: Column one, paragraph three, sentence one make read: ...transportation, aircraft resistance, and chemical. [new paragraph] Those who are...(clearing indistinct word).

IDF Soldier, 'Terrorist' Killed at Jordan Border

Infiltration Attempt Foiled

TA0811125290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1239 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] An Israeli soldier and a terrorist were killed today during a clash between an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol and a terrorist squad in the Jordan Valley, after the terrorists had crossed the border fence. Our Army affairs correspondent Amir Fink brings additional details:

One terrorist was killed and four others were captured following a confrontation with an IDF patrol, after the terrorists had attempted to infiltrate Israeli territory around 0600 this morning. The infiltration attempt took place 3 km east of the village of al-'Awja', north of Jericho. Our forces sustained one fatality. The squad was made up of five terrorists and was on its way to perpetrate an attack in Israel. The defense minister and the chief of staff arrived at the scene and were briefed by the commander of the Central Command. They also debriefed the soldiers who participated in the operation. When the debriefing was over, the chief of staff praised the speed and professionalism shown by the IDF troops in capturing the terrorists.

Arens, Shomron Comment

TA0811133390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Excerpt] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer was killed this morning in a clash with a terrorist squad north of the Dead Sea. The dead officer is reserves Captain Yehuda Lifshitz, 27, from Ra'anana. He will be buried this afternoon at 1615 at the Qiryat Sha'ul cemetery. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that one terrorist was also killed during the clash and four were captured. Two of the captured terrorists also sustained injuries. The clash took place between Jericho and al-Jiftliq, west of the village of al-'Awja'. Four out of the five terrorists belonged to the Jordanian security forces, most likely to the police, and they were accompanied by a member of a terrorist organization. Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Central Command, said that an initial investigation showed that the squad members were on their way to perpetrate a murderous attack in Jerusalem. They infiltrated Israel at 0400 [0200 GMT] this morning dressed in civilian clothes and were confronted 90 minutes later by an IDF patrol. The terrorists were armed with revolvers, ammunition, knives, and Korans.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that it has once again been made clear that Jordan is incapable of preventing terrorist infiltrations into Israel. Until now, Jordan has let us understand that it is doing its best to prevent such incidents, but again we see that its best is just not good enough. It is clear that Jordan's control of the border is not hermetic, Arens said, and we expect it to be improved. The defense minister told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that Israel knows that King Husayn is facing many internal problems and this fact may have affected his control over the Jordanian Army.

Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said that the infiltration had caused red lights to start flashing, because it again underscored the deterioration of the Jordanian Army and the fact that extreme religious elements have infiltrated its ranks. The IDF, said the chief of staff, will find ways to close the Jordanian border to terrorists. He expressed the hope that the Jordanian Army will also draw the necessary conclusions. The defense minister and chief of staff extended condolences to the family of the slain captain and praised the action of the IDF patrol that confronted the terrorists. [passage omitted]

Shamir Says Violence Threatens Right to Jerusalem

TA0811125890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Any acts of violence or expressions of hatred only serve to cause the Israeli people and the State of Israel additional harm and help our enemies undermine our right to Jerusalem. This statement was made today by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in reaction to the violent incidents which accompanied the funeral of Rabbi Kahana. The prime minister made these statements at a memorial service for Hayim Weizman, the first president of Israel. Our correspondent Ro'i Greenwald was at the ceremony.

[Begin recording] [Greenwald] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today expressed his hope that the wave of violence following the murder of Rabbi Kahana would pass. Shamir said that he is confident and sure that the security forces would prevent additional violent incidents.

[Shamir] I think that the security forces are exerting every effort in order to overcome all these negative phenomena.

[Greenwald] Shamir expressed great sorrow over the murder of Rabbi Kahana, as well as over the violent incidents which came in its aftermath.

[Shamir] The State of Israel does not deserve this. After the despicable murder of Rabbi Kahana, which was a blow aimed at the heart of the entire Jewish people, I think that any act of violence, or expression of hatred, only serves to cause the Israeli people, the State of Israel, and Jerusalem additional harm. The spectacles we witnessed yesterday, and which to our great regret were viewed by many people throughout the world, help our enemies undermine our right over Jerusalem.

[Greenwald] Addressing the rising tension in the Persian Gulf, Shamir said that Israel is preparing itself for any eventuality. [end recording]

Seven Kakh Activists Arrested in Jerusalem

TA0811144390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] The police detained seven Kakh activists this afternoon, including Yequti'el Ben-Ya'aqov, a member of the movement's secretariat, who declared yesterday that his men would now let the submachine gun and the knife talk. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that Jerusalem police arrived at the yeshiva that Rabbi Kahana headed, arrested the seven, and brought them to the Russian Compound [police headquarters] for interrogation.

Jerusalem Closed to Arabs From Territories 9 Nov

TA0811174490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Arabs from the territories will be denied entry into Jerusalem tomorrow in order to prevent violent incidents during Friday's prayers at the mosques on the Temple Mount.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reported that the senior police commanders discussed the situation in Jerusalem today and decided to maintain the reinforced deployment in the capital until the end of the week. Large police forces have deployed in the western part of the city to prevent attacks on Arabs. Large police forces will also be deployed in East Jerusalem in order to prevent disturbances and to maintain order, especially in the Old City and on the Temple Mount.

Israeli Stabbed to Death in Janin; Curfew Imposed

TA0811130290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1239 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] An Israeli was stabbed to death in Janin. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is searching for the assailant, and has imposed a curfew on the area.

Arab Policeman Murdered in West Bank

TA0711123590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] An Arab policeman was murdered last night in a village near the Samaria town of Janin. A Voice of Israel reporter says that masked men broke into the home of Salim Salim al-Murr and shot him in the face. He died instantly. The village has been declared a closed military area and police are investigating.

Another Palestinian has been attacked against a background of charges that he was aiding Israeli authorities. Mustafa Mahmud, aged 40, of the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus, was knifed last night. He was rushed to a local hospital and then to an Israeli hospital for treatment.

In Gaza, the curfew has been lifted on all towns and villages except for Bayt Hanun in the north. The curfews were first imposed at the beginning of the week because of a series of violent disturbances beginning at Bayt Hanun. This followed the death of a local resident. Arab sources claim he had died under interrogation. A post mortem attended by a British forensic pathologist determined he had hanged himself.

Update on 6 Nov Incidents in Territories

TA0711100890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Nov p 10

[Report by Matthew Seriphs and Jon Immanuel]

[Excerpts] Quiet reigned throughout the Gaza Strip yesterday, due to the usual strike called by the Islamic Jihad organization, but this did not prevent expressions of satisfaction at the death of Meir Kahane, regarded by many Arabs as their deadliest enemy. [passage omitted]

In Vienna, UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] released a statement "deploring the recent upsurge of violence in the Gaza Strip." Strong measures used by the Israeli authorities to control unrest "seem more likely to contribute to the violence... than to quell it," the statement said.

The agency said its figures showed that 650 were wounded, 266 in clashes on Saturday, 306 on Sunday and 78 on Monday. UNRWA said 211 were wounded by live ammunition, and 155 suffered wounds from plastic-coated metal bullets. The rest suffered lesser injuries.

The houses belonging to the families of two youths, suspected of involvement in throwing stones at the car of Amnon Pomerantz, the soldier who was killed in al-Burayj refugee camp in September, were destroyed, the army said.

Palestinians said 10 persons were wounded yesterday in the Strip, eight in Gaza and two in Khan Yunus.

The army said it had no reports of injuries. It said curfews remained in effect in al-Shati', al-Shaykh Radwan, al-Nasir, Bayt Lahiyah, Bayt Hanun, Jabaiyah, al-Nusayrat, al-Mughazi and al-Balah refugee camps. [passage omitted]

In several parts of the West Bank, a general strike called by the recently outlawed Islamic Jihad was observed. Three firebombs were thrown at military patrols in Nabulus and three were thrown in Hebron.

Local sources said firebombs were thrown at two military vehicles near the Nabulus municipality on Faysal Street, and another some distance away, but no damage was caused. Military sources had no report on the attack.

In Hebron, two firebombs were thrown at Israeli cars parked by the Avraham Avinu synagogue, and one was thrown at the Cave of the Patriarchs in the evening. None of them caused damage.

King Visits Switzerland, Meets With Thatcher

WA0811120590

For reportage on the visit by King Husayn to Switzerland, including reports on his attendance of the Second International Conference on Climate, as well as talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher regarding the Gulf crisis, please see the Switzerland and International Affairs sections of the 6 November West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Naval Interceptions of Merchant Ships Listed

JN0811084690 Amman THE STAR in English 8-14 Nov 90 p 5

[By a STAR staff writer]

[Text] Amman (Star)—The Jordan Shipping Association (JSA) has submitted a report to the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce on the interception and inspection of commercial vessels at the Tiran Straits by war ships patrolling the waters of the Red Sea. JSA President Mr Tawfiq Qa'war presented a memo in which he listed the names of these vessels, the dates on which they were stopped and cases of harassment of their captains, sometimes under the threat of guns. Most of these vessels were either prevented from continuing their voyage to al-'Aqabah port and were turned back or were delayed for several hours.

Following is JSA list:

Subject: Vessels that were stopped for a longer period than the expected time or which were obliged to unload part of their cargos in other ports before allowing them to enter Tiran Straits and head towards Aqaba Gulf after Jordan's announcement of its commitment to the embargo.

1. Red Sea Ensign, 24 September. The vessel was coming from British and North European ports. It had on board 10 containers of harmless chemicals and one container of hunting cartridges. The vessel was obliged to turn back to Suez to unload these containers. It returned back to al-'Aqabah on 2 October, a delay of eigth days.

2. Dongula of Sudan Lines, end of August. The vessel was expected to take Sudanese labourers coming back from Kuwait and Iraq. It was not allowed to pass and was sent back to Sudan.

3. ARI, beginning of September. The vessel was coming from the Far East with four shipments on board, one for the Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. (JPMC) consisting of electric cables and the rest for the Jordan Electricity Co. (JEC). The ship remained at the Gulf's entrance for three days until its agents, Telestar Shipping Co., proved to the American military attache in Amman that the goods were ordered by well-known Jordanian importers.

4. Zorba Express: The vessel was on a regular feedering service from Port Suez, Port Sudan, Jeddah route with final destination in al-'Aqabah. It was stopped several times at the entrance of the Gulf and the captain of the US Naval unit refused to allow it to pass because it carried containers of allegedly hazardous cargo (harmless chemicals) for importers in Jordan. (Agents Petra Shipping).

5. Al-Watiyah, 20 September. The merchant vessel belongs to the Arab United Lines. It has 197 containers on board and was returned from Tiran Straits to Port Said because of it was carrying two containers for the Free Zone. Cargo was transshipped on Ibn Zaidun two days later, and the vessel proceeded to al-'Aqabah after agents obtained an undertaking from consignees that the cargo was for local market.

6. Sino Credit of Pacific International Lines, 19 October. The vessel was stopped by a US helicopter. Armed US Marines placed the crew in a cabin for nearly eight hours under bayonets and machine guns, causing the crew fear and anxiety. The ship's captain reported: "While the American naval officer was courteous of the ship's papers, the act of holding the crew must have been issued by him. Hence he is fully responsible." The vessel's logbook was signed by LTJG Scott Sonegren confirming the search.

7. Olandia of Contship, on 28 October. The ship declared at Port Said that out of 128 TEUS for discharge in al-'Aqabah, it had 2 packages of spare parts for the Jordanian-Iraqi Joint Land Transport Co. The owners declared that they were willing to discharge the container in Port Said or even throw the container into the sea in the presence of the inspection team. Despite various attempts and arguments with US Navy captain at Tiran Straits, the ship was ordered to turn back. The US Navy officer declared that: "This vessel carries too many hazardous cargo, and whose final destination could not be determined." The ship was diverted to its next destination (India or Pakistan).

The harmless chemicals on board were partially consigned to Dar Al-Dawa', a leading Jordanian pharmaceutical manufacturing company.

8. Blue Nile of Sudan lines, 28 October. The vessel was enroute from Port Sudan to al-'Aqabah. It was stopped and refused entry although it had no hazardous cargo and obviously no Iraqi cargo on board. The US captain "misinterpreted the abbreviation of some commercial cargo on the Antwerp manifest," the report of the vessel's captain said.

9. Red Sea Europa of Red Sea Express (agent al-Mashriq Maritime and Transit Co.). It was intercepted by the US Navy on 3 November because one out of 223 containers ws not fully listed on the manifest.

10. Jagiello" of Polish Ocean Lines (agent Tawfiq Qa'war and Sons) was intercepted by the US Navy on 2 November. It carried general cargo on board. Reason given was unclear manifest details. (End of list)

In a related development Jordanian shipping sources have voiced their fears over the tendency of some Jordanian merchants to import cargo through Syrian ports. "This is still done on a limited scale, but we are afraid that if the naval blockade on al-'Aqabah continues, many merchants will change to Syrian ports," one source told The Star.

Public Security Personnel Reported Missing

JN0811184790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1833 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] A responsible source at the Public Security Directorate has stated that four Public Security personnel were absent from their working posts this morning, Thursday, 8 November 1990, and have not been found since.

AFP reported from occupied Jerusalem that an Israeli officer was killed at dawn today during an attempt to cross the cease-fire line between Jordan and Israel. The agency said the incident occurred near the village of al-'Awja' in the Jericho area, north of the Dead Sea, indicating that one of the assailants was killed and four others were captured.

Editorial Considers Baker Efforts for UN Quorum

JN0911085590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Nov 90 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Baker Seeks International Authorization for Aggression"]

[Text] Baker's moves to secure the necessary quorum for a new Security Council resolution authorizing the United States and its allies in the Gulf to use force against Iraq are now in full swing. The United States has already drafted a resolution to this effect. It wants to use the UN flag as cover for aggression, to obtain international status for the forces participating in this aggression, and to portray the operation to world nations, including the American people, as an implementation of international will—no more, no less. By so doing, the United States believes it can evade the massive responsibility it will bear if it launches the aggression. Moreover, it believes that the Iraqi blood that will be shed will be scattered and lost among the members of the world community. Hence the U.S. secretary of state's talks with the Soviet president and his foreign minister in Moscow yesterday. And it is for this purpose that Baker will hold talks in a number of European capitals to complete his current tour.

Undoubtedly, drafting the resolution and seeking others' approval constitute an advanced step in the wicked, aggressive U.S.-led scheme in the Gulf. The step will escalate tension in the region and reduce opportunities for a just peaceful solution to the crisis. The Soviet Union, certainly, knows all this, and one, therefore, wonders what Moscow's position is going to be: Does it intend to call on Baker to be wise? And will it place some obstacles before the hasty U.S. movement toward war?

Efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis should be given sufficient time and a suitable atmosphere in order to make progress. Needless to say, such climate cannot be created by a Security Council resolution giving the green light for implementing the aggressive U.S. plan. The Soviet Union will be doing good if it blocks the adoption of the draft resolution so as to allow current peaceful efforts to take their time and progress in an appropriate atmosphere.

It might be useful to say that the Security Council, which has so far failed to react to Israel's defiance of its resolutions on the Palestine question and to its oppression and massacres in the occupied territories, will not —if it issues a resolution allowing aggression against Iraq—be able to maintain its status as an international authority. It will become a mechanism used by a group of forces that have interests in imposing hegemony over the Gulf and dividing the Arab wealth among themselves.

Baker is painstakingly trying to get the world involved in the U.S. adventure in the region, for which Washington is preparing. He wants the Security Council to issue the authorization that will clear the U.S. Administration of responsibility to the coming generations. Whether it obtains this authorization or not, the United States will be held responsible for its preoccupation with the most serious aggressive plan in the region. No one will forget that the U.S. Administration in the time of Bush and Baker massed fleets and forces to destroy the Arab nation under the pretext of resolving the Gulf crisis, while it allowed Israel to revolt against international resolutions and proceed with its oppressive practices against the Palestinian people. No one will be misled by the U.S. peace pronouncement. Many crimes are perpetrated in the name of peace, when peace is innocent of them.

IDF Operates Against Hizballah North of Zone

TA0911132990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Last night, a joint force of the Armored Corps, the Paratroops, and the Giv'ati Brigade operated against Hizballah bases north of the security zone in southern Lebanon. Our troops suffered no casualties.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the targets, situated west of Jazzin, had served terrorist groups as organizing and departure pads from which attacks against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and South Lebanese Army soldiers were launched.

Our correspondent in the north Hayim Hecht reports that many terrorists fled the area to Tyre.

Israeli Defense Minister Tours Security Zone

Makes Series of 'Threats'

NC0911074890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] While Israel continues to reinforce its positions in the south, Israeli helicopters yesterday and last night flew intensively over al-'Urqub and western al-Biqa'. Meanwhile, villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah came under shelling from occupation forces' positions. It has been reported that the Amal Movement's positions came under concentrated 105-mm artillery bombardment from the radar and neighboring hills.

A Hizballah source has stated that Jurnaya hill, Kafr Killa, Jba', and Kafr Milki came under shelling from positions held by the occupation forces in Marj 'Uyun and al-Zaffat. The shelling, which intensified at 1900, continued until 2015 yesterday.

This coincided with a tour of the occupied border strip by Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens at the head of a group that included Israeli Army Chief of Staff Dan Shomron, Northern Area Commander Yosi Peled, and Uri Lubrani, so-called coordinator of Israeli activities. All of them met with Antoine Lahd, commander of the border militia. They also held a meeting of the command of the occupation army in the occupied strip.

During his tour, Arens made a series of threats. He said that the Israeli Army will not allow the militias to enter the security zone and that this area is under the control and supervision of the Israeli Army and the South Lebanese Army. He added that the Israeli Army will know how to respond to any attempt at aggression. Arens added: We are watching the Syrian movements in Lebanon closely.

Warns Syria About Moving Into South

TA0811124290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that in face of the beefed-up Syrian presence in Lebanon, Israel will not accept any change in the deployment of its troops. He said the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] would do everything necessary to assure full control of the security zone and the Jazzin area by Israel and General Lahd. Minister Arens was in southern Lebanon today; our correspondent Hayim Hecht spoke to him on the Lebanese border:

[Begin recording] [Hecht] The defense minister believes that the Syrians, after consolidating their control in Beirut, will try to move forces to southern Lebanon. If such a situation develops, the IDF will know how to prevent it, the minister promised.

[Arens] The defense of the northern border is based on control of the security zone by us and the SLA [South Lebanese Army], and control by Gen. Lahd's forces in the Jazzin area, and we will not agree to any change whatsoever in the level of that control.

[Hecht] Minister Arens rejected outright commentaries in the Lebanese press that behind the scenes Israel has given its blessing to Syrian hegemony in greater Beirut.

[Arens] We did not say anything like that since it is not ours to hand over. We were not based in B'abda, and General 'Awn was not our ally. We heard anti-Israeli expressions from him many times.

[Hecht] The IDF and the SLA are on the alert in view of the fact that hundreds of armed militiamen are entering Sidon, Minister Arens said.

[Arens] I do not know where the militiamen have gone. I can only promise you one thing: They will not enter the security zone and the Jazzin area.

[Hecht] On the continuing Gulf crisis, Minister Arens' answers were naturally much less decisive. No, he said, Saddam Husayn's declaration that the first missile in this war would be launched at Israel does not surprise us. We know exactly with whom we are dealing and we are taking it into account.

We conducted the conversation with Minister Arens a few minutes ago here on the Lebanese border after the minister, the chief of staff, and the commander of the Northern Command toured southern Lebanon. The minister expressed his concern at yesterday's phenomena during Rabbi Kahana's funeral.

[Arens] I am shocked by the riots and the slogans shouted during the rioting; they are contrary to Jewish and Israeli tradition. It is exceptional and unacceptable to most Israelis.

[Hecht] Minister Arens said several times in English for U.S. television: What you saw yesterday is not the State of Israel's true face. [end recording]

Greater Beirut Deployment Plan To Begin 10 Nov

NC0911071190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Lebanese state is determined to consolidate the march of peace and salvation in greater Beirut and all other Lebanese areas. The zero hour set for the implementation of the state's plan is dawn tomorrow, Saturday. The Army deployment will take place concurrently in the southurn suburb, al-Ashrafiyah, al-Nab'ah, Sinn al-Fil, al-Dawrah, al-Karantina, 'Alayh and Biskinta.

Fadlallah Comments on Greater Beirut, Hostages

NC0811181990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has asserted that what is currently going on in the Lebanese arena will ease the security situation through the Greater Beirut Plan. He contends, however, that the political settlement will continue to be affected by the shaky regional and international conditions.

In an interview with AL-ITTIHAD, Fadlallah added that some parties' requesting guarantees or stipulating certain conditions result from the policy of axes. He believes that this will not obstruct the solution because the regional and international powers that gave the green light to recent developments are stronger than all the political and security [word indistinct] which are expressing their fears.

On relations between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, Fadlallah said the scope of these relations goes beyond the local Lebanese arena and reaches regional [words indistinct].

On the hostages, Fadlallah said the present atmosphere is favorable for resolving many such problems.

Amal Sources Say Hizballah Accord 'Irrevocable'

NC0911075190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Amal Movement sources have reiterated that the movement's agreement with Hizballah is definite and irrevocable, although it may take a long time to implement.

The four-man committee—composed of Syrian, Iranian, Amal Movement, and Hizballah representatives—which is in charge of ending the Iqlim al-Tuffah war, is due to meet tomorrow in Beirut. The committee will coordinate deployment in certain southern areas with the Lebanese Army.

Meanwhile, a party official said that the first step of the Damascus accord might be implemented tomorrow. The step concerns the supply of foodstuffs and the evacuation of the wounded, as well as the restoration of the water supply to the al-Nabatiyah villages.

In another development, the Israeli occupation forces have brought fresh armored and artillery reinforcements to the occupied area over the past 48 hours.

Al-Tufayli on Agreement, Syria, Palestinians

NC0911133290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has stated that he does not rule out the possibility of an Israeli intervention to obstruct the agreement between Hizballah and the Amal Movement. He pointed out that any Israeli action must not affect our determination to solve the problem and confront the enemy. He stressed that Syria will act firmly toward the implementation of the agreement between the two parties. He noted that the agreement applies to all parts of Lebanon. He emphasized that the relationship between Hizballah and Syria is one of principles and destiny. He said: Syria defends our existence, and undermining its position means our destruction. He said that the justifications for the Palestinian presence in Iqlim al-Tuffah no longer exist.

Support for Resistance Basis of Hizballah Ties

NC0911093890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Political commentary: "Will Israel Try To Chart New Red Lines?"]

[Excerpts] Following Michel 'Awn's downfall, it was believed that the Zionists would probably refrain from interfering in Lebanese affairs in view of the fact that they have abandoned 'Awn. Many heaved a sigh, believing that a chance now exists to embark on a solution without Zionist pressure and interference. The Zionists, however, suddenly resumed their stand by making threats either through statements or through security and military actions, including air raids on various areas and positions north of the occupied border strip.

The Zionist practices intensified following the signing of the Damascus agreement between Hizballah and the Amal Movement and when there is much talk about the implementation of the Greater Beirut Plan and the need for the withdrawal of foreign forces, especially the Israeli forces in the South. The Zionist practices came in response to these calls. It is as if these practices are a clear signal that the [Lebanese] authority is forbidden to proceed to the south and that the escalation of operations against the occupation forces by resistance fighters is also forbidden.

At this juncture, we must ponder the stand of those who try to adhere to UN Resolution 425 as the only means to end Zionist occupation of the south. It was reported yesterday that Zionist forces broke though some UNIFIL [UN Interim Forces in Lebanon] positions in the South and damaged them. These practices show that the Zionist entity disregards and does not heed all the UN resolutions. Therefore, banking on the international

community and the UN resolutions alone to eliminate the occupation probably constitutes a kind of impractical and illogical risk-taking and wagering.

This prompts us to talk anew about the need for the resistance and the importance of activating it to end the occupation. Resistance is the only language which the Zionists have understood up until now. Only strong and decisive blows can convince the occupation forces of the need to withdraw and retreat. International appeals are useless. Since such appeals have been useless regarding the Zionist occupation of Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian, and Egyptian territories, they will also be useless in ending Zionist occupation of the southern territory. [passage omitted]

The [Lebanese] authority must make greater Beirut a starting point to give all the forces a chance and to encourage them to mobilize the greatest amount of resources and capabilities against the Zionist occupier. Such a stand will ensure unprecedented internal solidarity. The militias will be subject to a national decision to resist occupation. The authority will sponsor and support such a decision and oversee its implementation.

In the past, we responded to Samir Ja'ja' when he spoke about the resistance in the south and described the resistance fighters as honorable men. We said then that we were prepared to cooperate with Ja'ja' if he fights Israel. [passage omitted]

We say the same thing to everybody, because the common denominator that links us to any local or regional party is its belief in the need to fight Israel. We have said that we respect the Communist Party's resistance against Israel despite the fundamental ideological differences between us. We will get closer to the authority to the extent that it shows an understanding of and adopts the resistance against Israel. Our participation in the government on the basis of this stand will not be ruled out. Conversely, we will be the enemies of this authority if it remains aloof from the resistance or opposes it. We fought against [former President] Amin al-Jumayyil's authority for one reason only: that authority's cooperation with the enemy and its enmity toward the resistance and its masses.

Al-Hrss Meets With Delegation on PLA Future

NC0[illegible]11133390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Dispatch by Basim Sa'd from Government House in Beirut on 8 November—recorded]

[Excerpt] In light of the ongoing preparations to implement the Greater Beirut Plan between 10 and 19 November, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss has continued to meet with Lebanese political and [word indistinct] officials. At 0900 today, Prime Minister al-Huss received a delegation representing the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], the Bayt al-Din Grouping, and a number of officers from the Popular Liberation Army [PLA]. The delegation included former Minister Marwan Hamadah; Deputy Tawfiq 'Assaf; former Deputy Husayn Yunis; Major General Mahmud Tayy Abu-Dargham; Lieutenant Colonel Sharif Fayyad; Lieutenant Raja Harb; PSP Political Bureau members Akram Shuhayyib and 'Ala' Dirru; Shaykh 'Ali Abu-Mir'i; Shaykh 'Ali Zayn-al-Din; and PLA Commanders Zahi al-Ghusayni, Haytham al-Jurdi, Jamal 'Amar, Walid Safi, Fadi Ghurayzi, Farid Mahmud, and Khalid al-Biddini.

The discussions during the meeting dealt with the issue of the PLA and how to deal with it.

After the meeting, Lt. Col. Sharif Fayyad said:

[Begin recording] [Fayyad] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Huss received us and a delegation of PLA officers to discuss the issue of peace and the fate of this elite group of youths [PLA personnel] who have undertaken the responsibility of defending the homeland and the citizens. During this meeting, the PLA's structure, qualifications, and capabilities were explained. We explained to Prime Minister al-Huss the difference between the PLA and the militias. We also explained our view on how these regular units, which are tantamount to a regular army, must be dealt with. We emphasized to his excellency the prime minister that as we courageously entered the phase of war that was imposed on us, in the same way today we will courageously and willingly enter the phase of peace. We triumphed then, and we will triumph now.

[Sa'd] Lt. Col Fayyad, do we understand from your statement that you have begun dissolving the PLA?

[Fayyad] We are now discussing with his excellency the prime minister on how to open and deal with this issue. The PLA is not a militia that we may tell its members: Go home. No. The PLA cannot be dissolved lightly and easily. The PLA has its own regular structure, [one word indistinct], specialists, and officers. It is for this reason that we are discussing this issue now with his excellency the prime minister, in view of his position, his national responsibility, and his concern about the future of these youths and that of the homeland. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Faris Rejects Accord With Lebanese Forces

NC0811171990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Dr. Marwan Faris, head of the Higher Council of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party Political Bureau, has underlined that any accord with the so-called Lebanese Forces means an agreement with war, and that disagreement with the Lebanese Forces is an agreement with peace. This is because the Lebanese Forces are a formula for war, the product of war, and a military establishment, whatever their mentors claim.

In a statement to our radio, Faris stressed the importance of declaring the start of implementing the Greater Beirut Plan. He noted that the upcoming stage will witness the battle of political and nonsectarian representation. He said that what happened after 13 October was natural: Those who left their homes returned to them. They were evicted from their homes for political reasons. He asserted that the talk of excesses was only a campaign designed to negotiate their share in the government and the deputies to be appointed in the Chamber of Deputies. He said: We believe that all this uproar is not objective and is aimed at increasing their political share in the government. The balance of power, he said, does not allow these people to have a share equivalent to Christian representation. This, he said, is the story of war. The claim that the Christians and Maronites are represented by the Phalangists is the story of war.

Private Stations in Al-Biqa' Ordered To Close

NC0811172490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Justice and Information Minister Edmond Rizq has issued a decision ordering the closure in all areas of al-Biqa' of all private and unlicensed television stations, as well as all private and unlicensed radio stations that transmit on the medium-wave band.

Afghanistan

Kabul Units Mop Up North, South of Capital

LD0711213290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Kabul Garrison units mounted a mopping up operation today north of Kabul and inflicted crushing blows at the warmonger extremists. The BAKHTAR military section reports that during the mopping operation a number of extremists were crushed and one Blowpipe surface-to-air missile, an assortment of weapons, four wireless sets, 50 surface-to-surface U.S. Sakhr-20 and -30 rockets, 200 missile rockets [as heard], more than 1,000 mortar mines, 432 artillery shells, 100 boxes of light weapons ammunition, 541 shells of rocket launchers, and one (?igniting) set have been captured by the Armed Forces.

Also destroyed during the operation were warmonger extremists' two sets of BM1, three OShK, three mortars, 100 positions, and two bases.

According to another report Kabul garrison units continued their mopping up operation today south of Kabul. As a result of the operation two enemy sets of [word indistinct] one DShK were destroyed, and 150 mortar shells and 250 missile shells [as heard] were captured.

Units continue their clearing up operations successfully in those directions with high combat morale and patriotism.

Three Extremist Ammunition Depots Destroyed

LD0711213990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] As a result of artillery strikes by units of the Armed Forces, three arms and ammunition depots caught fire and were destroyed today in the area of Kuh-e Safi. BAKHTAR's military section reports: Due to fire and strong explosions which took place in the depots and whose flames could be seen at a distance, hundreds of weapons and thousands of rounds of light and heavy weapons ammunition belonging to the extremists were destroyed.

Mujahidin Rocket Attack in Herat, Kabul

BK0811105090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1034 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Kabul, Nov 8 (AFP)—Mujahidin rocket attacks on Afghanistan's key western city of Herat and the capital, Kabul, left at least 21 dead and more than 60 injured, officials here said Thursday.

One rocket slammed into a government store in Herat late Wednesday, killing 13 people waiting for their food rations, a government spokesman said. He said 53 other people, mostly women and children, standing in a queue outside the store were seriously wounded. Another rocket hit the 200-bed hospital in Herat, killing five people and seriously wounding three, the spokesman said.

Two more rockets hit residential areas in Herat City, 1,100 kilometers (680 miles) from here, but there were no reports of casaulties. Prosperous Herat City, close to Afghanistan's border with Iran, has been virtually free of rocket attacks for the past seven months.

The mujahidin hit Kabul for the second day Wednesday, firing 16 missiles which left at least three dead and six wounded, the spokesman said. The rockets hit residential areas in the city's northeast, close to the high-security international airport also used by the Afghan air force.

There was heavy rocketting of the city and the airport Tuesday, disrupting flights and forcing its closure for several hours and again on Wednesday. The airfield re-opened after the army rocketted suspected mujahidin positions near the capital.

A few explosions were also heard early Thursday but it was not immediately clear if they were rockets fired by the mujahidin or the government.

More than one million people have died in the 12-year war between the Soviet-backed government in Kabul and the mujahidin.

Mopping Up Operations in Several Provinces

LD0811215790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Units and companies of the Armed Forces in Zabol Province carried out mopping up operations around Qalat city. BAKHTAR's military section reports that as a result of these operations a number of extremists, including 'Abdul Samad and Akhtar Muhammad and two Saudi Wahabi mercenaries were killed. One machinegun, one rocket launcher, and four Kalashnikovs were seized. A number of extremists and Wahabis were wounded among whom was Mola Feda Muhammad. A ringleader of the extremists was also wounded.

Units and companies of the Armed Forces in Ghowr Province carried out military and mopping up operations west of Chaghcharan city yesterday and inflicted crushing blows on the armed groups belonging to the Gulbuddin extremist group. As a result of these operations a number of extremists were crushed. One DSHK, 16 light weapons, 1,000 boxes of assorted ammunition, and five vehicles carrying ammunition for them were seized. Also, three villages were cleansed of the existence of extremists yesterday. A total of 30 villages have been cleansed of the existence of extremists during the past three days in Ghowr Province. The people of those villages were saved from the clutches of extremists and have resumed their peaceful life.

A 14-man armed extremist group, along with their ringleader, was captured yesterday as a result of a mopping up operation by the Armed Forces in Khoshaba region, Helmand province. BAKHTAR's military section reports that as a result of the operation 13 supply

vehicles, three Kalashnikovs, and thousands of rounds of assorted ammunition were seized.

Five armed men belonging to Rabani's extremist group were captured the night before last [6 November] as a result of an ambush by the state security personnel of Samangan Province. The extremists were engaged in terrorism in that province. A large amount of (?ammunition) was seized from them.

*Mujahidin Groups Assisted To Resolve Split

91AS0116O London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Oct 90 p 3

[Text] The REUTERS news agency reports from Peshawar that the seven Afghan mujahidin groups, which were sharply divided after the departure of Russian forces from Afghanistan, put an end to their differences last week with help from Pakistani officials. The basic difference was between Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of the Islamic Party, and the other five Afghan mujahidin groups.

The resolution of differences between the seven Afghan mujahidin groups took place after the inconclusive two-week attack by forces supporting Gulbuddin Hikmatyar and 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, leader of another of the seven groups, on the city of Kabul.

The five other Afghan mujahidin groups did not participate in the attack on Kabul, which came from the west and south of the capital using rockets and artillery from positions 30 kilometers away, and Sebghatullah Majaddedi, president of the mujahidin interim government, criticized Hikmatyar and Sayyaf.

Six months ago, Hikmatyar also tried to overthrow the Najibullah government in a separate coup d'etat attempt in collaboration with Shahnawaz Tanai, minister of defense in the Kabul Marxist government. Hikmatyar's effort, which failed, led to greater isolation for his group from the other Afghan mujahidin groups.

Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in Pakistan

For the first time last week, the most famous Afghan mujahidin regional commander, who in the last 12 years has not left the northern mountains of Afghanistan and the battlefield even once, went to Islamabad to meet with the leaders of the Pakistani army. During his stay in Islamabad he met with Ghulam Ishaq Khan, president of the republic, and General Aslam Beg, commander of the Pakistani army, and he discussed with them the future of Afghanistan and ways to achieve a military victory over the Kabul government. These meetings were attended by the chief of the Pakistan Army Intelligence Organization, General Asad Durani, who gives most of his support to the Hikmatyar group.

With talks suspended between America and the Soviet Union to find a solution without bloodshed to determine the future of Pakistan [as published], it now appears that the Pakistani army has taken the initiative to rely on a military victory against the Kabul government.

News agencies report that Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, a staunch opponent of Hikmatyar, took part in the talks to resolve differences between the Afghan mujahidin groups and agreed with them.

Western diplomats in Kabul believe that the united and coordinated Afghan mujahidin, with serious weapons and financial support from Pakistan, could put heavy pressure on the Kabul government, but there is no possibility that they could take over the capital of Afghanistan with military action.

Bangladesh

Students Attack Information Minister's Home

BK0811122090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1209 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 8 (AFP)—Police fired blanks to disperse about 3,000 students who torched several vehicles here Thursday near the office of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, witnesses said.

The students planned to demonstrate in front of the president's office but were stopped by police nearby, they said, adding that police used long bamboo sticks to disperse the students.

After a brief clash with police, the students ransacked several shops, chanting anti-government slogans, witnesses said, adding that at least 25 people were injured.

All Party Students Unity (APSU) planned the demonstration to protest the delay in reopening five universities closed October 13 in the face of growing anti-government agitation.

All other schools reopened Thursday after a 25-day closure, in response to a renewed anti-government campaign that began October 10. At least 10 people including three students have died in the violence.

At least 20 cars including three government cars were set ablaze in several areas by the students, who retreated to the Dhaka University Campus blasting home-made bombs, witnesses said.

The students attacked the home of Information Minister Mizanur Rahman Shelley and broke window panes, they said, adding that a car parked there was also damaged.

Police confirmed that a brief disturbance had occurred but gave no details.

The APSU groups the students wings of various opposition parties, which have sought Mr. Ershad's ouster for the last eight years and new elections under a neutral interim government.

Press Note Issued on Police-Student Clashes

BK0911015890 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] A press note issued in Dhaka today says five police personnel, including one assistant commissioner and one ASI [assistant subinspector of police] were injured in Dhaka today when some unruly students threw cocktails, hand bombs, and petrol bombs at them. The students also set on fire five cars, besides damaging 10 others in the city. The government hopes all concened will cooperate with the government in maintaining law and order by demonstrating patience and tolerance.

The press note says the All-Party Students Unity and Islami Chhatra Shivir [Islamic Students Union] earlier gave a program to sieze the office of the chancellor of the university. In pursuance of the program, the students [word indistinct] alliances and parties started gathering at the connecting point of Ring Road and (Pantipur) and its adjoining areas from 1000 in the morning. They made attempts to proceed toward the office of the chancellor, but police deployed at these areas took necessary steps to maintain law and order. At this time, unruly students threw brickbats, cocktails hand bombs, and petrol bombs at the police. As a result, one assistant commissioner of police, one ASI, and three constables were injured. After failing to proceed toward the chancellor's office, some unruly set ablaze two (?UN) cars near the Elephant Road petrol pump, two micro buses, and a government jeep at Ring Road. They also damaged eight cars at Ring Road and two cars at (Kalabazar). The press note adds it is the sacred duty of the government to protect the property of the people and the government hopes all concerned to refrain from damaging state property.

Hindus Criticize India for Praising Ershad

BK0811154090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 8 (AFP)—Leaders of Bangladesh's minority Hindu community Thursday criticsed the Indian Government for praising President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's efforts to calm communal violence, saying it was inadequate.

They told reporters that foreign missions here should first visit the Hindu-dominated areas before expressing thanks to Mr. Ershad on curbing Hindu-Moslem clashes.

The Indian High Commissioner (Ambassador) here, K. Srinivasan met Mr. Ershad Sunday and conveyed his government's appreciation for his prompt action in tackling the incidents.

Chitta Rangan Dutta, president of the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council (BHBCUC) said many Hindus had either left or were leaving their homes in Bangladesh for India.

"We hold the president responsible and want Home Minister Mahmudul Hasan, Works Minister Abul Hasnat, Jute Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam and Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud punished for inciting communal violence," said Mr. Dutta.

He claimed that at least 50 hindu women were raped and hundreds of temples damaged across Bangladesh since October 31, when the Hindu-Moslem clash disturbances started.

The clashes spread from India following an attack by Hindus on a mosque in the city of Ayodhya, India, claimed as holy by both religions.

Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzem Hossain had earlier told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that all possible steps have been taken for the security of the Hindu community, who make up 12 per cent of Bangladesh's 110 million people.

Mr. Dutta said offices of the Samaj Darpan Newspaper, a BHBCUC mouthpiece, were damaged Wednesday by identified members of the ruling Jatiya Party.

Pankaj Bhattacharya, a left leaning politician released from jail recently on orders from Mr. Ershad, warned that hindus would sacrifice blood if they were attacked again.

Srimath Bodhipal Mohathero, a Buddhist monk, alleged that 28 women in Rangamati District of the troubled southeastern hill tracts were raped by troops on October 19 during a religious festival.

No independent confirmation of the incident was immediately available.

Troops have been fighting outlawed rebels in the hilly district for the last 16 years to thwart demands for autonomy.

India

Shekhar Assembles New Coalition Government

Singh Opposes 'Small Group' Leadership

BK0811162290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] The outgoing prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has again expressed the view that it will be a wrong precedent that an opportunity is given to a small group to form the government whose status is not clear. Speaking to newsmen at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] and later addressing the National Front parliamentary party, Mr. Singh said he has conveyed this stand to the president. He said action has been initiated by the Janata Dal for the disqualification of the members who disobeyed the whip and voted against the confidence motion in the Lok Sabha.

Left Parties Considered

BK0811164890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] A report received just now says the president has also inquired from the left parties whether they will be able to form a viable government at the center. At his meeting with Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], Mr. Venkataraman also wanted to know whether the left parties are willing to form the government. The Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house] spokesman said the response is awaited.

Left Opposes Shekhar Bid

BK0811162490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] The left parties have protested against the move by the Chandra Shekhar group to form a government with the Congress-I support. Leaders of CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party] and Forward Bloc met the president and conveyed their views.

The Indian Union Muslim League president, Mr. Ibrahim Sulaiman Seth; the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] leader, Mr. R. Muthiah; and the working president of the Janata Party-JP, Mr. Subrahmaniam Swamy; met Mr. Chandra Shekhar and coveyed their parties' support to him in forming a government.

Shekhar Asked To Form Government

BK0911035590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0346 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 9 (AFP)—Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman invited dissident leader Chandra Shekhar Friday to form a government, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Mr. Venkataraman asked Mr. Shekhar to explore the possibility of forming a "viable government at the centre," the news agency said in a brief despatch.

Shekhar Holds Consultations

BK0811125490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] The Janata Dal-S leader, Mr. Chandra Shekar, is having hectic consultations with his party colleagues and leaders of various other parties on the possibilities of forming government at the center. Those who met him during the day include the U.P. [Uttar Pradesh] chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav; the Gujarat chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel; the AIADM [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] leader, R. Muthiah; and the Janata Dal, J.P. leader, Dr. Subramania Swamy.

Earlier, talking to newsmen, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said that the modalities of cooperation with the Congress-I are being worked out. Asked whether a government formed by a small group will be able to provide stability, Mr. Chandra Shekar said stability depends on the credibility of the leadership and cooperation from others.

Shekhar Support Builds

BK0811160890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Even as the president set in motion the process of forming a new government, the Congress-I has formally conveyed to Mr. Venkataraman its decision to give unconditional support to Mr. Chandra Shekhar as prime minister. However, it will not join the government. The Congress-I allies—the all India Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazagham and the Muslim League—have also announced their support to Mr. Chandra Shekhar and so has the Bahujan Samaj Party. The Congress-I's declaration was the reply of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi to the president's querry. When Mr. Gandhi met the president this morning, Mr. Venkataraman asked him whether he is willing and able to form a stable government. The reply came in the evening after the Congress-I parliamentary board meeting and a formal communication was sent to Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house].

The president posed a similar querry to the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] chief, Mr. L.K. Advani, who also declined saying only a mid-term poll can find a solution to the political impasse.

Our correspondent says the president sought the opinion of the Congress-I and the BJP on ministry formation in order of the numerical strength in the Lok Sabha.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar is claiming to represent the next largest group of 55 members including 25 who have been declared unattached by the speaker. The Lok Sabha Secretariate has clarified that the process of disqualification of the 30 MP's [members of parliament] who voted against the National Front whip does not bar the Chandra Shekhar group from staking a claim to form a government. Our correspondent reports the process of forming a new government began with the president accepting the resignation of the National Front government and requesting the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, to continue till alternative arrangements are made. Mr. Singh who had sent in his resignation late last night, called on the president this morning.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he is optimistic of proving his majority on the floor of the Lok Sabha if he gets the invitation to form a government. Addressing a crowded news conference, he said he has not yet received any word from the president. Mr. Chandra Shekhar disclosed that he has written a letter to Mr. Venkataraman shortly after the National Front government was voted out. He said the simple arithmetic shows who has majority support. He claimed the strength of 61 for the Janata Dal-Socialist in the Lok Sabha and said he has received support from some small parties also. Mr. Chandra Shekhar has been having wide-ranging discussions with his colleagues, including Mr. Devi Lal, Mr Mulayam

Singh Yadazv, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel and leaders of various parties. Replying to a question, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said stability of the government depens on the credibility of the leadership and cooperation from others. [passage omitted covered by referent item]

Janata Dal Denies Split

BK0811162390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] A report received a short while ago says the Janata Dal chief, Mr. S.R. Bommai, has expressed confidence that any decision by the president will be in consonance with the letter and spirit of anti-defection law. In a letter to Mr. Venkataraman, he again contended that no split has taken place in the original Janata Dal, and those who claim that the parliamentary party has split will not qualify to get the benefit of the exemption provided under the anti- defection act.

Janata Dal Shuns Congress-I

BK0811164490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] The National Front parliamentary party met in New Delhi today to review the situation in the wake of the recent political developments. Addressing the members, Mr. V.P. Singh said the National Front should now take to the people the issues on which the government was voted out of power. He said we tried to uphold secularism and rule of law. Mr. V.P. Singh requested the National Front chairman and the Janata Dal president to chalk out a suitable plan of action. He said he will undertake a tour of the country starting from Bihar later this month.

The Janata Dal president, Mr. Bommai, regretted the split in the party, but said the exit of Mr. Chandra Shekhar and his supporters has cleared the confusion in the party. He also said the Janata Dal and the National Front will never collaborate with the Congress-I. Briefing newsmen, the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. P. Upendra, said 112 members attended today's meeting.

Congress-I Opposes Shekhar Petition

BK0811162090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] The Congress-I has urged the speaker [of Lok Sabha] to reject the petitions for the disqualification of the members of the breakaway Janata Dal group under the anti-defection law. The party chief whip, Mr. P.J. Kurian, said since the prime minister had himself called a vote for a vote on the basis of conscience, he has no moral or legal authority to make such a demand. He also argued that the whip issued by the Janata Dal had become meaningless and void in the circumstances.

Shekhar To Take Office 10 Nov

BK0911074190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Mr. Chandra Shekhar is to be sworn in as the new prime minister. The swearing-in ceremony will take place tomorrow at 1100 [0530 GMT]. The Janata Dal-Socialist leader called on Mr. Venkataraman at Rashtrapati Bhavan at noon and was with him for half an hour. The president invited him to form a government and he accepted the offer.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar told waiting newsmen that he will prove his majority on the floor of the Lok Sabha by the 20th of this month. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he showed the president the relevant documents in support of his claim and the president was satisfied. Answering a question, he expressed the hope that he can form a stable government.

President Notes Satisfaction With Shekhar

BK0911093690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] The president has invited Mr. Chandra Shekhar to form the new govenment. After a half hour meeting with Mr. Venkataraman this morning, Mr. Chandra Shekhar told waiting newsmen that he will be sworn in as prime minister tomorrow morning at 1100 [0530 GMT]. The president has asked Mr. Chandra Shekhar to prove his majority on the floor of the Lok Sabha before the 20th of this month.

The 63-year old Socialist leader said he had furnished documents to prove his majority to the president's satisfaction. Mr. Chandra Shekhar expressed confidence that he would be able to provide a stable government and claimed the support of 280 members in the Lok Sabha.

A Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] communique issued a short while ago says the president was satisfied prima facie that the group headed by Mr. Chandra Shekhar has the strength to form a viable government with the support of other parties. The communique said the president is of the considered opinion that it will not be in the national interest to plunge the country into a general election at this time. Every effort should be made to provide the country with a reasonably stable government.

Our correspondent says today's developments bring to an end the political uncertainty after the withdrawal of BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] support to the V.P. Singh government last month. This was followed by a succession of dramatic developments, leading to a split in the Janata Dal and Mr. Chandra Shekhar forming a separate group. The V.P. Singh government lost the confidence in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. Mr. Chandra Shekhar became the obvious choice to head the new govenment after the other major parties declined the president's offer and the Congress-I offered unconditional support to him. There were scenes of jubilation outside Mr. Chandra Shekhar's house with people thronging the

place in colorfully decorated vehicles. There is no word yet on how many ministers there will be in the Chandra Shekar government. The prime minister designate is busy consulting his colleagues and supporting parties on the composition of his ministry.

Our correspondent says, Mr. Chandra Shekhar who had been dominating the Indian political scene through the three decades has the unique distinction of not holding any ministerial office. Born on 1 July 1927 in Bagia District of Uttar Pradesh, he was a firebrand student and was drawn to the socialist fold under the influence of Acharya Narendra Dev in his college days. After obtaining master's degree in political science, he joined the Praja Socialist Party and was later elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1962. Two years later, he joined the Congress where he was known as a Young Turk. In the wake of the emergency, Mr. Chandra Shekar was detained for his association with the Jayaparakash Narayan Movement. In 1977, when the Janata Party came to power he became its president. He undertook a countrywide padayatra [long march] and covered 4,200 kms to establish rapport with the people. In the subsequent years, he joined hands with some Non-Congress-I parties to form the Janata Dal which came to power in the 1988 elections at the center.

Shekhar Considers Cabinet

BK0911115490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1135 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister-designate, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has begun consultations with senior party leaders on the formation of his cabinet, which is to be sworn in tomorrow. He has had discussions with Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, Mr. Vamuzo, Mr. Chautala, and Dr. Subramania Swamy.

Mr. Chimanbhai Patel told our correspondent that Mr. Chandra Shekhar will be sending a communication to the president by this evening.

All Detained Hindu Temple Volunteers Released

BK0811172090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] All the kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers] and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] legislators arrested in connection with the kar seva [voluntary service to build a temple] in Ayodhya have been released. According to official sources in Lucknow, the state police forces deployed in various parts of the state have also been removed. Our correspondent reports that no untoward incident was reported from anywhere today. In Rajasthan, the situation in the curfew-bound towns of Jaipur, Jodhpur, Beawar, and Chumo is reported to be peaceful. In Bihar also, the overall situation remained peaceful.

Muslim Body Appeals to Bangladesh, Pakistan

BK0911090090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] The All India Qaumi Tanzeem [a Muslim organization] has appealed to Pakistan and Bangladesh not to interfere in India's internal affairs saying that the Muslims of the country are capable of solving their own problems. In a statement, the Qaumi Tanzeem said it would be better if the two countries concentrate on their own linguistic, regional, and ethnic issues and on the betterment of the minorities there and said it was pained at the attitude of some Pakistani political parties and their leaders toward the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue.

'Terrorists' Arrested, Killed in Kashmir

BK0811172290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, two terrorists have been killed and 29 subversives arrested by security forces since yesterday. Large quantities of arms and ammunition have been recovered from them. Three security personnel and a civilian were injured when some terrorists fired at a vehicle of security forces near Handwara today.

Nine Die in Separate Punjab Incidents

BK0911085290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] In Punjab, seven terrorists were among the nine persons killed in separate incidents since last night. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has also been recovered.

Meanwhile, in Jullundur city, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire in a market place last night, killing two persons and injuring another.

Rajasthan Cabinet Ministers Resign 8 Nov

BK0911094790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] In Rajasthan, all the ministers of the state cabinet submitted their resignations to the chief minister, Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhwat last night.

According to official sources, the resignations were submitted by the ministers after the chief minister won the vote of confidence in the state assembly.

Our Jaipur correspondent understands that Mr. Shekhawat is going to restructure his ministry in the near future.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks on Gulf, Economy

LD0911120790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Our Muslim compatriots today held the politico-religious rites of the Friday prayers all over the country. Meanwhile, the residents of Tehran held the Friday prayer at Tehran University and the adjacent streets under the leadership of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In the second sermon, referring to the magnificent ceremonies held throughout the country on 13 Aban, [4 Nov; anniversary of the takeover of the U.S. Embassy] the national day for struggle against global arrogance, the president of the republic said: 13 Aban is among the valuable days of our history. On such a day the exalted leader, the people, the government, the Majles, and the Islamic revolution institutions once again renewed their bond with the lofty aspirations of the Islamic revolution. They all, without a single exception, proved that they were solidly united in the preservation of the independence [of the country], and in a campaign against expansionism. In his message on the occasion of 13 Aban our exalted leader drew up the axis of the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran—a policy which is in line with the lofty aspirations of the imam of the ummah [Khomeyni], may he be admitted to God's paradise. Now we hope that the said line continues to be clear for our nation.

Referring to the draft law on amendments to the national budget law, which is being read at the Majles, the president said: For the first time after the victory of the Islamic revolution the economic indices of the country are moving toward improvement. That gives us cause for delight, for it proves that after the war the government-people package have adopted a correct economic path for organizing the country's economy. So much so that the budget deficit is less than the figure estimated in the budget law. Also, borrowing from the banks has declined, while the growth rates in a variety of fields in industry and agriculture range from 10 percent to 360 percent. That shows that long and pride-inspiring strides have been taken.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the fall in liquidity of the private sector and also to the moving of excess private sector liquidity into productive fields and to the banks. He said that bank deposits and people's long term accounts to banks have increased, and, in itself, this indicates the people's confidence in the banks. He then added: The volume of money in circulation has decreased, while taxes have been collected at an optimimum level. The accelerating growth of the rate of inflation and high cost [of living], which was 30 percent during the period of war, has dropped to eight percent this year; that too is a very valuable achievement. Yet, we are still some distance away from realistic prices; and non-oil exports are yet to achieve growth. We expect non-oil exports go up as productivity expands. Nevertheless, reconstruction projects continue to progress at twice the budget previously projected, despite the heavy expenses which the earthquake and the reconstruction of quake-hit areas imposed on the budget. Indeed, development projects have absorbed more than their allocated budgets. That generally shows that the economic trend of the country is on a correct path. If that trend continues then during a reasonable time economic equilibrium will be restored to the society.

Continuing the second sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the loss of life and the destruction of property on account of the quake in the villages of the Darab township. He said that he hoped that the people and the government would help to solve the problems of our compatriots in that part of Fars Province in a short while. He also referred to his recent visit to the quake-hit areas of Gilan and Zanjan. Explaining the vast dimensions of the calamity in those provinces he said: In the quake hit areas of Gilan and Zanjan, and to some extent in East Azerbaijan, as many as 137,000 dwelling units, 2,000 villages, and 60 to 70 factories, and thousands of shops, workshops, schools and clinics were destroyed. To provide the minium requirement of housing we must create seven million cubic meters of construction, yet, there was no budget allocation for such a vast undertaking [because the quake came after the budget was drawn up]. Work nonetheless began speedily. We have left behind the first phase thanks to the help by the people and the institutions. Thanks to the efforts of the people and the guidance of the Interior Ministry, and the assistance of the helping provinces, we have achieved major and pride inspiring works. At present nobody is without a shelter in the quake hit areas. There are fully built housing units; and then there are the skeletons of some buildings which the government has built and handed over to the people to complete them, and they need help to do so. Villages hit by the quake have been rebuilt, but due to the natural conditions of the region they have no water and power and infrastructure. Pupils are attending classes, but school buildings are yet to be built fully. We have planned to supply building materials, and banks will provide long-term credits for the purpose. It is still a major task to build schools, factories, hospitals, welfare, and other infrastructure, and to provide services to the rural townlets, though that task must be accomplished.

Continuing his second sermon, the president described the regional problems and, referring to the situation in the Persian Gulf region, said: Anxiety about the start of the war in the region still exists, and there are no signs that indicate a peaceful end to the situation.

Commenting on the fact that the presence of the Iraqis in Kuwait, in addition to inflicting major losses on Iraq and Kuwait, has also caused a great deal of damage to the region, including the presence of alien forces in the Persian Gulf next to the immune holy shrine of God [in Mecca], Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Foreign forces have not come to the

region to defend justice, because, if that were so, they would have prevented the crimes of the Zionist regime in occupied Palestine. The presence of alien forces in the region will have many dangerous consequences in the region, and the only solution is the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait. Iraq should return to within its own borders. We will not violate the economic embargo on Iraq, and we will not allow geographical boundaries in the Persian Gulf to be changed.

President Addresses Governors on Quake Relief

LD0811135190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received the governors-general of provinces assisting the quake-stricken regions of Gilan and Zanjan. Also present was the interior minister, who submitted a report on the progress of development and reconstruction activities in the quake-striken regions. He honored the memory of engineer Zaynol-Abedin Ata'i, the late governor-general of West Azarbaijan, and praised the active presence of the governors-general of the provinces giving assistance.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani then praised the eminent leader for his kindness in appointing special representatives, and for providing the necessary support concerning this matter—notably, the building of schools and educational establishments. He said: The efforts of the Interior Ministry and the good management and planning of the interior minister, as well as the efforts of the selfless people of our country, our managers and officials in charge of quake-striken regions, especially those provinces giving assistance, are worthy of praise. He emphasized the need for the formation of a national natural disasters relief organization.

The president expressed satisfaction at the work already carried out in the quake-striken regions. He said: This work is beyond imagination; though I had some idea of how work was progressing, I could not believe so much had been done until I saw it for myself. Serious and sincere building activities have been carried out.

In another part of his remarks, the president said: When I presented the report on my trip to the eminent leader, despite the fact that his eminence, the leader, had his own representatives in the region, he praised the extent and good quality of the work that had been carried out.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the need for the media to inform the public about the work carried out. He said: You should inform the public about what has been done; the work deserves to be appreciated, and it would not be right to refrain from telling people about this good work. Of course, there are some difficulties, and you should also tell the people about the inadequacies.

In conclusion the president gave some needed guidelines with regard to permanent housing and the elimination of existing problems in quake-striken regions.

Media Commentary Views U.S. Presence in Gulf

Policy Criticized

NC0211115190 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Presence of U.S. Forces in the Region is Intolerable"]

[Text] Soviet Presient Mikhail Gorbachev said in Spain yesterday that aggression and violence in regional crises are condemnable and should be checked by collective measures under the auspices of the UN. He further added that the Persian Gulf crisis "was a test of the world's ability to enforce international law by joint action."

International relations have begun a trend in which the most important element is to avoid tensions and use military force by those possessing economic and military strength. [sentence as published] According to international rules and regulations only the prevention of any act of aggression or the punishment of an aggressor country, in this framework of collective action under UN auspices, can be considered as legitimate. Any country, due to any reason, which acts contrary to this international order will be held responsible before the current generations and those of the future.

It is undoubtedly true that Iraq has broken international laws by invading and annexing Kuwait. Iraq has inflamed international opinion and its actions are deemed unacceptable by all the countries in the world. More so the crisis provoked in the Persian Gulf, due to the importance of the region, has adverse effects on other countries, and the add-on-effects of inter-dependence only increases the need of logically solving the current crisis.

The United Nations Charter envisages phased steps for punishing any aggressor country. The charter tries as much as possible to solve world crises without resorting to violence. Only if all else fails, then can the UN resort to military action.

The unilateral decisions of the U.S. and its allies outside the framework of the UN, as well as the continued presence of American forces in the region, undoubtedly will face the resistance not only of Muslims of the region but of all world Muslims who are for the holy sites in Hijaz. The continued deployment of foreign troops not only drags the Persian Gulf crisis into unpredictable and dangerous circumstances but will prove once again that the era of politics of force and aggression and the disrespect of international laws has not come to an end.

If the Persian Gulf crisis continues in its present manner, it is highly unlikely that a political settlement can be found. This will be especially so if differences of view arise among the Superpowers and other powers of the world.

U.S. Views Examined

NC0211150190 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 9 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Chances of a Military Confrontation in the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] Three possibilities exist concerning the current crisis in the Persian Gulf: 1. A war will break out, 2. No military confrontation will occur, and 3. The outbreak of a war would depend on parameters which cannot be predicted on the basis of the available data.

Many well-known political figures maintain that the U.S. and its allies will try to avoid war and prefer a diplomatic solution to achieve their illegitimate interests in this volatile region.

Despite his military gestures, the U.S. President George Bush is attempting to accomplish his political goals through a diplomatic breakthrough, particularly because the American people do not support war and would not tolerate heavy casualties.

This climate has grown so much in the U.S. that Zbigniew Brzezinski, national security advisor to the ex-president, is on record as saying that "American youth should not sacrifice themselves for Kuwait".

The White House which has designed the military build-up in the Persian Gulf, is more than anyone else eager to gain victory without sustaining any casualties.

On the other hand, the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has expressed assurance in a latest comment that the United Nations will prevent the outbreak of a war in the Persian Gulf. Although this remark is regarded to be more of a propaganda nature than a purely diplomatic statement, his views are, however, ponderable in view of the sensitive position Gorbachev occupies in today's world.

Some believe that Gorbachev's remarks and withdrawal of a French warship from the Persian Gulf and other similar events that we may witness in the coming days are all aimed at deceiving the opposite side and that some major developments should be expected. In other words, such approaches are paving the way for a lightning operation in which case, the White House would have endorsed Henry Kissinger's prescription. Kissinger believes the U.S. has crossed the danger line and has no way for retreat. The U.S. has got involved and should not lose, he says.

Kissinger says a short-term crisis is better than a lengthy blockade, that the passage of time would be detrimental to the U.S. and that it should take action as soon as possible.

To act upon Kissinger's doctrine, however, will entail grave consequences for the U.S., as any failure in its expeditions too would inflict irreparable losses on Washington's illegitimate interests.

The U.S. has got into an arena the way out of it is a matter of face-saving. [sentence as published] Therefore, the most important point for the White House is the outcome of a military expedition.

But the main difficulty facing Washington is the defeat of its plan on Iraq's total blockade which would force it to enter the military stage the outcome of which could be shattering for the U.S. because of Iraq's chemical arsenal and the inability of American troops to stand a long chemical warfare.

Although the possibility of a war breaking out in the region cannot be ruled out altogether, Washington's procrastinations and its making contradictory statements on political and military solutions indicate that the outbreak of war has been postponed until when the White House is completely disappointed over the effect of an embargo and is quite sure of the success of military action. Otherwise, the White House would maintain the situation by limiting the scope of the crisis. Through its constant presence, the U.S. is pursuing interests that are vital to its country, something to which Muslims are vehemently sensitive and which they consider as a plot against the Islamic world.

Paper Discusses Role of Oil

NC0411211490 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 16 Oct 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Pulse of the Regional Crisis Is Throbbing in the Oil Barrels!"]

[Text] "Iraq is going to depart from Kuwait," "Iraq is not going to depart from Kuwait." The dissemination of these two conflicting reports from two official sources in the course of a few hours has only added to the ambiguity already prevailing in the Persian Gulf region.

Under such circumstances, the trend of events in the region indicates that Iraq and the United States, the two hostile countries ostensibly poised against one another and involved in the tug of war of politico-military maneuvers, seem to prefer to stretch the regional conflict even further with the passage of time.

By deploying over 200,000 of its troops in the region, the United States has given rise to speculation of a possible military conflict, even among the most optimistic observers. Iraq, however, wishes to embark on other assessments and to keep its forces stationed in Kuwait, at least for the first six months of the crisis.

The past few days' reports of changes in Iraq's stance, the possibility of its departure from Kuwait, and most of all, the utterances by the Arab diplomats in Jordan, followed by reports from the Soviet press agency, and all these superseded by the Iraqi information minister's denials are evidence that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is seeking to reap maximum benefits merely from the passage of time.

The main reason for Iraq's obstructionism in the course of the two years of peace talks with Iran and for its stretching the talks so that time would work in its favor, was that it was gradually preparing itself for the occupation of Kuwait.

On the other hand, it can also be assumed that by raising the issue of the occupation of the islands of Warbah and Bubiyan and of seizing control over the al-Rumaylah oilfields of Kuwait, it could better assess the reaction of the regional governments and the world.

In any case, oil, the actual cause of the present tussle in the region, is traversing its upward spiral and according to predictions, if the present trend continues, its price will rise to about $60 to $70 [per barrel].

Oil experts have forecast a world shortage of at least 2 million barrels [per day] despite OPEC's increase in production. This will convince most of the needy countries, the European countries in particular, that Iraqi oil should be sent to the oil market so that, in view of the astronomical benefits being reaped by U.S. oil companies, those countries should at least minimize their own losses.

Western Tactics Assessed

NC0911143290 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 22 Oct 90

[Editorial: "The West—Objections to War, Not Intervention"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The wave of opposition in world public opinion to the intervention of NATO forces in the Persian Gulf has proliferated and has engulfed France, Italy, and the United States as well. Nearly 20 cities in the United States have witnessed extensive demonstrations against militarist U.S. policies. In France and Italy, similar demonstrations expressing opposition to the warmongering policies of the NATO forces beyond Western geographical boundaries have been staged. [passage omitted]

In that part of the world, European and American citizens are motivated by different considerations, but have declared that they are firmly opposed to the militaristic policy of the West. Even though this is considered a serious cry of opposition against the warmongering policy of Washington and its European allies, it appears that the Western policymakers have not only been taken unaware by this movement, but they also seem to welcome it.

The proliferation of such protests and movements in the West is exactly what the Western ruling parties need in such circumstances so they can justify their decision not to take military action against Iraq, if need be.

From the outset, it was clear that this massive deployment of troops was not and is not for the purpose of war against aggression and to terminate Iraq's threats and aggression, but is itself a form of large-scale aggression which can only be justified on the basis counteracting Iraq's aggression and intimidation. Today, it has transpired with the passage of time what exactly the West's actual motives were in indulging in these infamous war games.

This phenomenon has in fact exposed the true nature of the reactionary Arabs and proves that they have been instrumental in bringing immense shame and degradation to the world of Islam. Nations should rise up with strength and determination; they should act to end this humiliating state of affairs and separate their accounts from the dishonorable Arab courts and rootless monarchs.

Even if the Western governments interpret the protests against military action in the Persian Gulf as a protest against their own policy, they also see the benefit accruing to them from such a hue and cry and, in some cases, may also give the green signal for these protests.

The Muslim nations should not be hoodwinked by such Western protests and think that it is possible that such threats will end the Western intervention in the Persian Gulf and the usurpation of the land of divine revelations. The clamor in the West against war is only "opposed to war" and is totally different from the protests in the world of Islam. If the Western forces were to remain in the region for a few more decades and no war were to take place, there would be no serious or effective protest. In fact, it is even possible that the acquisition of an "aperture of hope," which has already been hailed, could be welcomed. [passage omitted]

Foreign Withdrawal Demanded

LD0811135690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0710 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Iraq's continued occupation of Kuwait daily prolongs the crisis in the Persian Gulf, and the corrupt arrogant powers on the pretext of defending the interests of the Persian Gulf littoral states have embarked on an unprecedented troop deployment. With the creation of a new security structure they are really intent on defending their own interests.

The important point is that, although this unlawful presence has taken shape under the banner for the defense of the Persian Gulf region states, security and for confronting Iraqi aggression, this continued presence can, in the future, make a target of the interests and independence of the states. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the most powerful country in the region, and our nation, as one which has a long history of struggle against world arrogance, fully realizes the hidden intentions of the world-devourers and warns the neighboring states to be vigilant and not allow the aliens and foreigners to interfere any further, and to be the masters of their own fate and interests.

For the crisis to be ended, the immediate withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and also the withdrawal of foreign military forces from the Persian Gulf is imperative. In that case the region's states will be able to solve their own problems with wisdom and foresight and exert their own will and wishes on their own region.

Our great, heroic nation also demands the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf and condemns aggression in all its forms. Our brave and zealous people, who have fought for years for their independence and territorial integrity and have not shrunk from self-sacrifice and devotion to safeguard their principles and values, are watching today the region's situation carefully and with vigilance. While being prepared to defend the values of the revolution and the borders of the Islamic homeland maintaining their readiness and combat capability, they will accept no change in the political geography of the region.

In view of the present crisis, maintaining military capability is a principle, and our glorious forces pay great attention to it and are intent on daily strengthening their combat and defense capability. Experience has shown that whenever the defensive forces of the Islamic revolution have maintained their combat capability and vigilance, the enemy has completely failed to inflict a blow on the Islamic revolution. This is an invaluable experience. As long as our forces pay attention to this important point, the Islamic revolution and the homeland of martyrs will be safe from accidents and conspiracies.

Gulf 'Posturings' Described

LD0811214790 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Meetings, contacts, and diplomatic moves over the Persian Gulf crisis have increased, especially following failure of the Soviet President's special envoy's mission to the region.

In various comments and posturings (?unmooted) by the political personalities and officials of countries and various circles concerning future probabilities of the crisis [as heard]. Generally speaking the view on probabilities which can be (?mooted) about various issues enjoys more significance when used for complicated political issues. And an analysis on the future of the crisis in view of its various and contradictory dimensions should not be presented with certainty.

On the Persian Gulf's three month-long crisis, various sides have laid emphasis on a settlement to it, and in this regard a solution to the crisis fluctuates between a peaceful or military one. And based on different conditions, each solution enjoys priority over the other.

Following failure of Primakov's mission in introducing a peaceful solution to the crisis, comments and posturings concurrent with the beginning of the U.S. secretary of state James Baker's mission and his visit to the regional and European states are directed at the point that Baker has embarked on this visit in order to win the support of the U.S. allies for a military action in case economic sanctions against Iraq fail to bear fruit.

Meanwhile, the existence of two posturings and two wings in various countries, especially those involved in the Persian Gulf crisis, is more evident. Statements made by the Kuwaiti officials indicate that they have lost their patience on the UN economic sanctions as well as other peaceful means for making Iraq leave Kuwait, and prefer a military solution now.

The United States and its allies, noting this issue that economic sanctions against Iraq have not (?met) their impact and that there is seen no sign of Iraqi retreat from Kuwait, are now speaking of a military solution.

Meanwhile, the British prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, in her latest threats against Iraq, yesterday in a speech before the British Parliament said: Saddam Husayn will soon be taken out of Kuwait.

But the other wing, composed of the Soviets, France, and China, which mainly believes in a peaceful solution and attempts to prevent occurrence of a war, still insists that all the existing possibilities and chances for solving the crisis peacefully should be used. They have not lost their hope for achieving a peaceful solution. However, they do not reject a military action in case Iraq refrains from leaving Kuwait, but prefer that such military operations should be carried out under the supervision of the United Nations.

At any rate, though it cannot be said with certainty what the direction of critical situation in the Persian Gulf is, most evidence indicates that under present conditions a war is more likely to take place, and some political analysts and circles believe the question is not whether there will be a war or not, but the question is when will the war begin?

Editorial Criticizes UN, International Inertia

NC0911155390 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 22 Oct 90 p 1

[Editorial by Mohammad Sarafraz: "The Impotence of the International System"]

[Excerpts] Recently the international system's weakness has become very clear. The United Nations is unable to express a suitable reaction to the Israeli regime's expansionism, which is based on the schemes of the United States and other domineering powers.

The UN Security Council, in a cautious reaction, condemned the Zionist police killing of the Palestinian Muslims in the al-Aqsa Mosque, and called for the dispatch of a UN fact-finding team to occupied Palestine. However, the Israeli regime termed this as 'interference' in its internal affairs.

If the UN believed in acting on its principles, it would have taken measures against Israel, similar to those taken against Iraq.

According to the UN Security Council Resolution 242, the Israeli regime must vacate all the territories it occupied in the 1967 war. The UN members could have, at the very least, not recognized such occupied territories as Jordan's West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and the Bayt ol-Moqaddas.

The question arises: What are the geographical boundaries of Israel as envisaged by those countries which have friendly relations with Israel?

The fact is that it was this very international system that officially recognized the 1940 occupation of Palestine by the Zionists and laid the first crooked foundation stone of this structure. If, with the passage of time, the Israelis were able to legitimize their usurpation, why should other countries, including Iraq, not have the same aspirations? [passage omitted]

An important point is Israel's role in the present situation. It is most probable that, following an American attack on Iraq, Israel might embark on a military action and push the Palestinians toward Jordan. If the Zionists take such an action the international system's impotence to ensure security will be further affirmed and the possibility of a change in the region's geography will become stronger.

It is not easy to predict the future course of events but one cannot ignore the role of the Muslim nations in their struggle against Israel or the trend toward domination that prevails in the entire region. It appears that the era of the sovereignty of nations is at a close.

Velayati Receives Atomic Energy Agency Envoy

LD0711100490 Tehran IRNA in English
0740 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7 IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Tuesday stressed that Iran is for a Middle East free from nuclear arms and said that security of this sensitive region must be maintained.

He made the remark in a meeting with the visiting Secretary General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Hans Blix.

On Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Velayati said that Iran respects all Security Council resolutions and calls for unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

Blix referred to strategic importance of Iran in the region said that it played an active role in the agency and its election to the IAEA Board of Governors heightened this role.

Blix arrived here last Friday to take part in the five-day international conference on high levels of natural radiation opened in Ramsar, Mazandaran Province last Saturday.

Earlier in the day, Blix met with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Velayati Receives Message From UK's Hurd

LD0711112490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Mr David Reddaway, the British charge d'affires in Tehran, today in a meeting with Mr Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, handed over to him the written message from Mr Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, at the said meeting the British charge d'affaires emphasized the willingness of the UK Government to have sound and normal relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also announced preparedness for the initiation of constructive cooperation between the two countries in a variety of fields.

On the basis of the same report, referring to the background of Iranian-British relations and their ups and downs, Mr Velayati stressed the efforts of the Foreign Ministry to bring about the release of Mr Mehrdad Kokabi, the Iranian student imprisoned in Britain.

Cuban Health Minister Reviews Protocol

LD0811174890 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1600 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] A draft scientific and technical protocol between Iran and Cuba was reviewed at a meeting today between the Cuban deputy health minister and Mr. Fazel, the minister of health, treatment, and medical training.

On the basis of the protocol, Iran and Cuba will exchange knowledge and experience in the medical, biotechnological, and medical engineering spheres.

Besharati, Mojaddedi View Afghanistan Issue

LD0611093790 Tehran IRNA in English
0720 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—Sebghatullah Mojaddedi in a meeting with First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here Tuesday underlined his government's desire for participation of all Afghan people in determining their own destiny.

During the meeting, also attended by Afghan Interim Government's Minister of Justice Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gilani, Mojaddedi said that he is ready to negotiate with all Afghan Muslim groups with the aim to solve the country's problems. "We want to establish an Islamic, non-aligned and independent government in Afghanistan," he stressed."

Mojaddedi further underlined the need for solidarity among the Afghan mujahideen.

He also urged the Islamic Republic to continue its efforts aimed at establishing tranquility and peace and guaranteeing sovereignty of Islam in Afghanistan.

Mojaddedi and Gilani arrived here Thursday night for talks with Iranian officials over the Afghan issue.

Kalantari, Soviet Official Discuss Cooperation

LD2610203690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Mr. Polad-Zade, first deputy of the USSR Ministry of Water Resources Construction who arrived in Tehran today, met with Mr. Kalantari, the minister of agriculture.

During the meeting Mr. Kalantari expressed hope for constructive cooperation in various agricultural areas as a result of the expansion of relations between the two countries, and that Iran would be able to benefit from Soviet experience in irrigation and land reclamation.

Mr. Polad-Zade also said: Bilateral relations between Iran and the Soviet Union entered a new phase since last year. We are always willing to expand our relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: regarding similar atmospheric and climatic conditions that exist between the southern Soviet Union and Iran, we are ready to put our experience in various agricultural fields at Iran's disposal.

*Tehran-Moscow Rail Service Scheduled

91AS0116G London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] Early next year rail links will be established between Tehran and Moscow, and travelers going to the two cities will be able to make the trip by passenger train.

In addition to the establishment of land links by rail between the capitals of the two countries, more Aeroflot flights to Tehran will be added soon, and there are also plans—after a commercial contract is signed between the National Iranian Airline "Homa" and the Soviet airline—for Homa passenger aircraft to fly to Moscow. Mohammad Sa'idi-Kiya, the Islamic Republic's minister of roads and transportation, who went to the Soviet Union early last week at the head of a delegation to hold talks with Soviet roads and transportation officials, was able to make extensive agreements during his two-day stay with his Soviet counterpart Nikolay Ryzhkov to expand ties between the two countries. In a press conference, the Islamic Republic's minister of roads and transportation announced that he had signed a protocol with Soviet officials after whose implementation there will be significant increases in cooperation between the two countries in the areas of transportation and shipping. The official told reporters: Based on agreements reached, rail service between Tehran and Moscow will go into operation early next year. Sa'idi-Kiya added: With this in mind, the Iranian side will lease passenger cars for 10 years, with the provision that it will assume ownership at the end of the lease.

The Tehran Islamic regime's minister of roads and transportation discussed cooperation between Russian and Iranian companies to build a rail line from Mashhad to Sarkhas. He announced: The studies needed to carry out this project will made in the next 15 months.

Sa'idi-Kiya said: To expand cooperation between the two countries in the area of rail shipping, an agreement in principle has been signed by the two sides for the Islamic Republic to buy 200 rail cars.

Increased Aeroflot Flights to Tehran

In his press conference, the Islamic Republic regime's minister of roads and transportation discussed the expansion of cooperation between the two countries in the area of air cargo. He said: In view of the Soviet Union's desire to increase the number of Aeroflot flights to Tehran, it was agreed that these flights would be increased to two per week after the signing of a commercial contract between the two nations' airline companies.

The official noted that if Homa flights are scheduled between Tehran and Moscow, the number of Aeroflot flights on the same route will be reduced to one per week.

The Tehran Islamic regime's minister of roads and transportation was asked about the possibility that the Islamic Republic would buy passenger aircraft built in the Soviet Union. He said: In recent talks between the two delegations in Moscow, the Islamic Republic expressed its desire to lease Soviet Yak-42 passenger aircraft, with a capacity of 100 passengers.

He added: According to agreements made, in the first phase one aircraft of this type will be made available to the National Iranian Airline, and if the quality is acceptable, more will be purchased.

Concerning the possibility of cooperation in the area of road transportation between the Islamic Republic and the Soviet Union, Sa'idi-Kiya said: During talks with [Subarov], the Soviet minister of international transportation, the possibility was considered for Iranian trucks to use the road from Astara to Baku to haul goods, and for these trucks freely to cross the Soviet Union to Europe. The continuation of this discussion was deferred to the next meeting between the delegations of the two nations.

Consultative Assembly Analyzes National Budget

LD0811081190 Tehran IRNA in English 0608 GMT 8 Nov 90

["An Analysis on the National Budget (March-October)"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—A supplement to the national budget for the current Iranian calendar year 1369 (March 21, 1990-March 20, 1991) was the only topic in the agenda of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Tuesday [6 November].

(The Iranian calendar year, known as the lunar Hegira calendar year, invariably starts on March 21 and ends on March 20th the following. The current calendar year in Iran is 1369.)

Deputy chairman of the National Plan and Budget Committee Eshaq Jahangiri-Koshai offered an analysis of the features of the law bill for supplementing the national budget at the Tuesday session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and said:

"The amendments to the national budget during the past few years were mainly due to bottlenecks in the national budget because the government would not collect the revenue it anticipated to. Therefore we had to increase the level of national borrowings so that the problems of the government would be solved.

"At the time being we have before us the expenditures report of the first seven months of the current Iranian year. We look at the report as having brought positive results. The sum of the government revenues during the first seven months of the current calendar year (March 21-October 23) was 2,641.7 billion rials, which in terms of the seven-twelfths fraction (the budget for the first seven months of the year as a fraction of the twelve months of the year) appropriated by the Majles shows an increase of 10.6 per cent, that is 115 percent higher than it was in the Iranian calendar year 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988], 136 percent higher than it was in the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], and 81 percent higher than it was in the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990].

"During the March-October period this year as much as 898.6 billion rials (one U.S. dollar is equal to 65 rials in official exchange rate) were collected in taxes which fell below the anticipated figure for that fraction of the total year which originally was 1,003 billion rials. Nonetheless the tax revenues as compared to the years 1366, 1367, and 1368 were respectively up by 54 percent, 58 percent, and 35 percent.

"Direct tax revenues ranked highest among other types of tax revenues. The 517 billion rials in tax revenues from that source were actually 87 percent of the total taxes expected to have been received by the end of the seven months of the year which in comparison with the years 1366, 1367, and 1368 was respectively up by 53 percent, 44 percent, and 31 percent.

"The total government revenues on indirect taxation for the period was 381 billion rials which was actually 92 percent of the anticipated figure, that is 412 billion rials, which in comparison with the years 1366, 1367, 1368 was up by respectively 55 percent, 83 percent, and 41 percent.

"Revenues on oil and gas during the first seven months of the year were 561.9 billion rials, that is 89.4 percent of the total revenue anticipated for the entirety of the year, which in comparison with the years 1366, 1367, and 1368 was respectively up by 18 percent, 46 percent, and 7 percent.

"Other revenues between March 21 and October 23 this year was 1,181 billion rials which was 56 per cent more than the revenue anticipated in the national budget for the same period of the year. In other words, the 'other revenues' section in the budget for the seven month period was anticipated to go only as high as 757 billion rials against the now actual revenue of 1,181 billion rials which in comparison with the years 1366, 1367, and 1368 was respectively up by 587 percent, 603 percent, and 346 percent.

"Government loans from the central bank during March 21-October 23 this year was only 60 percent of the total amount anticipated in the budget bill for the same fraction of the year."

"In the annual budget bill we had allowed the government to get as much as 839 billion rials in loan from the national banking system whereas in fact the government got only a fraction of the anticipated amount. As compared to the years 1366, 1367, and 1368 the government borrowing from the banking system during the March 21-October 23 this year was respectively 29 percent, 52 percent, and 39 percent lower than in those years.

"The total government revenues during the March 21-October 23 which includes government revenues, borrowings, and turn-overs was about 3,253.1 billion rials.

"In the calendar year 1369, 72.3 percent of government revenues were government receipts and 27.7 percent of them were in the form of banking facilities. During the same period in the preceding year government receipts composed 61.5 percent and banking system facilities composed 38.5 percent. In the year 1367 the situation was not even as good as it was in the year after, since 49 percent were government revenues and 51 percent were facilities from the banking system. In other words in the calendar year 1367 government loans from the central bank was higher than government revenues.

"One revenue figure which fell below its anticipated levels at the national budget is oil revenue, which in the face of recent increases in oil prices may leave some room for debate. The reason is that when the Majles budget appropriations committee was debating the issue before the turn of the year obviously it figured out everything with respect to an anticipated parity rate between the dollar and the rial. At that time on the basis of the expert opinion of our consultants at the central bank we had concluded that the mean parity rate between the dollar and the rial would be about 74.6 rials on which basis we figured out the current revenue figures for the year. In the budget bill, therefore, we set the mean parity rate of the dollar at about 75 rials, whereas in fact its average parity rate between March 21 and October 23 happened to be 68 rials. The other reason was the average price of each barrel of oil in terms of the dollar. We anticipated to sell each barrel of oil at about $17.00 whereas for five months of the current year we sold oil at about $12.00 to $13.00 per barrel.

The highest disparity between anticipated revenue figures and actual figures during the period concerns the so-called 'national cooperation tax'. Originally the tax was to apply to private persons with the highest levels of revenue. During the March 21- October 23 we collected about six billion rials in national cooperation tax which was only 11 percent of the figure anticipated for the same period in the national budget plan, that is 58 billion rials.

"Among the indirect taxes there was also a significant drop in tax revenues on cigarette (excise) tax which during the period was only 60 percent of the anticipated figure. During the period the government collected only 56 billion rials against the anticipated 92 billion rials for the same period.

"On other revenue areas we have had significant increase as compared to original expectations, and mainly the increase in revenues on other areas has been as a result of the selling of foreign exchange to people at 'competitive' rates which compensated for the four areas on which the government revenues fell below anticipated figures.

"During March 21-October 23 the government paid out 3,253 billion rials that is 98.4 percent higher than its anticipated figure for the same period in the national budget. In comparison with the calendar years 1367 and 1368 the government pay-outs were respectively 42 percent and 37 percent higher. The current budget is 2,227 billion rials (95 percent of the original appropriations), and the development budget is 1,025 billion rials (106 percent of the original appropriation in the budget plan) which is a commendable success of the government.

"In the year 1369 the current budget was 67.5 percent of the national budget and the development budget 31.5 percent. In the year 1368 the current budget was 75 percent of the national budget and the development budget 24 percent, in the year 1367 the current budget was 81 percent and the development budget 13 percent."

"During the first six months of the current calendar year (March 21-September 22) revenues on oil and gas exports was 6.4 billion dollars, a little lower than the 14 billion dollars anticipated in the budget bill for the total year. The total revenue on export of services was 410 million dollars and the total foreign exchange receipts by the government was 6.8 billion dollars.

"In the five-year development plan we have anticipated to earn about 18 billion dollars on non-oil exports, $2.3 billion of it during the calendar year 1369 which goal was not fulfilled.

"In the March 21-September 22 period according to central bank report our revenues on non-oil exports was about 40 million dollars. allowing for special foreign exchange facilities granted to independent exporters the total revenue fo the six-month period would be about 400 million dollars which is far below the anticipated figure. We feel that the Islamic Consultative Assembly should be more concerned about the topic. Pay-outs to importers in foreign exchanges during the March 21-September 22 within the same context was 12.5 billion dollars.

"In two or three chapters of our national budget bill we have anticipated appropriations in the form of foreign exchange. On that basis the expenditures during the first half of the current year were not consistent with the provisions of the national budget bill. One sector is the industries. The total appropriations for the industries for the calendar year 1369 was four billion rials, whereas only in the first six months of the same year the industries received as much as 4.2 billion dollars in foreign exchange (for industrial importation).

"The reason is too clear to need an explanation. For the time being the price of wheat has fallen to an unprecedented low. Naturally as a country which is a regular importer of wheat it only stands to reason that we import at least as much wheat as me may need for the rest of the year or even for the upcoming year.

"After all as long as you expect your factories to operate and produce you should offer them the foreign exchange they need within the first three months of the calendar year so that they may expend same for importing the parts and materials which they need for industrial production in the course of the year.

"Another sector is the business and commerce sector which has a foreign exchange appropriations of 3.9 billion dollars for the year, but which only during the first half of the year it expended as much as three billion dollars of same appropriations.

"A positive device adopted in relation with the foreign exchange appropriations this year has been the adoption of a 'physical balance' at the turn of the year so that the government agencies would predict how they should operate in the year ahead.

"With respect to this outline summary of the national budget bill we concluded that the budget has proved well and because during the first seven months of the current year it proved its solid foundation we consequently had a good view of the supplement to the budget, and have attempted, as best we can, to provide arrangements whereby the special financial problems of the government agencies may be solved.

"The principal figure of the supplement to the national budget which is included in note one to the budget bill concerns the allocation of certain facilities to Iranian ex-war prisoners. The proposed allocation for the purpose was 50 billion rials and we approved the same figure, and have also considered certain aids to our returning war prisoners..."

Towards the end of the report of the Deputy Chairman of National Plan and Budget Commission Eshaq Jahangiri-Koshai, several Majles deputies debated the proposed supplement, the continuation of the debates to continue in the next meeting of the Majles.

Projects in Sistan-Baluchestan Allocated Funds

LD0711143990 Tehran IRNA in English 1059 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Zahedan, Sistan-Baluchestan Prov., Nov. 7, IRNA—Some Rls. [Rials] 14 billion (dlrs. 200 million) have been allocated for construction of jetties, airports and roads in this southeastern province, said Minister of Roads of Transportation Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia here Tuesday.

The minister who arrived here Tuesday afternoon said that during the ongoing first 5-year development plan, more than 10,000 trucks will be put to use in country's transportation network, out of which 5,200 trucks will be manufactured domestically and the rest will be imported.

This year, the government has allocated dlrs. 560 million for purchase of truck spare parts and tyres.

Construction of jetty, breakwater at Martyr Beheshti Port, improvement of the Chahbahar-Iran Shahr and Khash-Zahedan roads are among major projects being carried out in this province, said the minister.

Active Mines Transferred to Private Sector

LD0511183490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1430 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] According to an ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY report with more than 100 million tons of proven lead and zinc mineral reserves, the Central Province has the greatest deposits of these minerals in the country. According to the Central Province director general of mines and metals a subsidiary company of the Ministry of Mines and Metals, as a a first step, has recently activated the province's lead and zinc mine which has about 11 million tons of reserves. He added that a lead smelting factory also will start work soon in the area.

He estimated the mineral reserves of the province at about one billion tons and said that of these reserves about 500 million tons are building stones, chalk, and limestone: 400 million tons are metal bearing minerals; 10 million tons are industrial earths; 100 thousand tons are decorative stones; and 50,000 tons are colored earths.

He added that besides the (Muteh) gold mine, which is partly situated in the Central Province in Astaneh in Sarband a gold mine has also been discovered with worthwhile reserves.

He said the number of active mines transferred to the private sector and cooperatives in the Central Province has risen from 28 mines last year, to 50 this year. Every year, on the average, about two million tons of minerals are extracted from these mines.

*Increase in Exports to Turkey Reported

91AS0116K London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] While in the first six months of 1989 the Islamic Republic exported goods and materials with a total value of $141.2 million to Turkey, this figure increased significantly in the first six months of the current year, and based on official statistics published by the Istanbul Chamber of Industry and Commerce, its total value was increased to about $225 million, or about twice the amount for the same period the previous year. The commercial statistics report published by the Istanbul Chamber of Industry and Commerce states that in the first six months of the current year (1990) the Islamic Republic bought and imported $63.5 million in goods and materials from Iran [as published]. A comparison of this figure with the total value of the Islamic Republic's imports from Turkey in the same period the previous year (1989) shows a decrease to one-fourth the previous amount.

Turkish statistical sources gave about $298 million as the total value of the Islamic Republic's imports from Turkey in the first six months of 1989. Statistics from the Istanbul Chamber of Industry and Commerce show that in the first six months of the current year the Federal Republic of Germany, with purchases of goods and materials from Turkey valued at $3.47 billion, ranked first among this nation's trading partners. In the first six months of the current year the Federal Republic of Germany had about $2.12 billion in exports to Turkey.

*Unexpected Price Rise in Domestic Rice Reported

91AS0116M London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] After prices increased in recent weeks on most goods, food items, and agricultural products, as of early Mehr [late September] prices also increased on domestically-produced and imported rice, and availability was limited for this important food item in Tehran and the nation's other municipalities. The significant price increase on rice occurred at a time when the new crop from the farms of Gilan and the paddies of Mazandaran were gradually coming onto the market, and these high prices were felt more in areas whose residents are themselves involved in rice growing.

Based on reports from Mazandaran and Gilan, early in the second week of Mehr [last week of September] the price for dom siah dudi rice [a variety of rice—top quality] produced in Gilan increased from 700 to 850 rials per kilogram to 1,110 to 1,150 rials. At the same time, on the wholesale rice market in the nation's rice-producing provinces, sadri rice [a variety of rice] was trading at 95 to 100 tomans per kilogram, dom siah dudi rice at 85 to 90 tomans per kilogram, and Caspian rice was trading at 70 to 75 tomans per kilogram. An insider in rice imports and sales in Tehran told KEYHAN's reporter that apparently most of the rice produced inside the country as well as the imported rice is being taken to Iraq by food smugglers, and because of this, while the

space for marketing this important food item in Iran has decreased, there has also been an unprecedented increase in the price. This merchant discussed the limited domestic production of rice in the current year. He said: The terrifying earthquake in the north a few months ago, which destroyed most of the rice paddies in West Gilan, caused the rice from this area not to reach the market and consequently the previous shortages in this area expanded more than before.

Editorial Reviews Need to Reduce Prices

LD0811114490 Tehran IRNA in English 1049 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—In its editorial Thursday the Persian daily 'ABRAR' recommended that the administration which has some degree of control over certain areas of economic activities to try to push down prices and rates in the interest of the economically-lower classes of the Iranian society. It said that every government agency should naturally make every effort to grow at the service of the people, rather than develop into purely business enterprises without regard to the interest of the people whom it is to help.

Said the editorial, "should a government agency increase the price of its services to the people without regard to the economic status of the people, then it has changed into a business firm which prefers its own interests to anything else."

The government agencies which are now economically thriving as government-sponsored enterprises were originally aimed at serving the masses and promoting their development, would do better to remember the reason for their existence and the masses who are the human resources for implementing national development plans.

Exhibition of 'Anti-Revolutionary' Documents

LD0311145990 Tehran IRNA in English 1407 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 3, IRNA—An exhibition of confiscated antiques, espionage and counter espionage documents plus photos and slides unveiling the true nature of anti-revolutionary grouplets opened here Saturday.

Information Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Fallahiyan addressing the gathering, elaborated on the key role of his Ministry in foiling terrorist plots and on Washington's role in financing, supporting and guiding the grouplets.

He said the U.S. has time and again attempted to overthrow the Islamic Republic by laying down intricate networks for spying and economic saboiage, but thanks to the vigilance of the information personnel, Washington's efforts got nowhere.

Several ministers and high ranking officials attended the opening ceremony at the Azadi (Freedom) Cultural Complex.

Campaign Against Corruption To Continue

LD0511182690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Mr. Movahhedi, the director-general of the Islamic Revolution Committee's office fighting against forbidden deeds, was interviewed by reporters this morning. Referring to the fact that the struggle against corruption in society will not be halted under any circumstances, he said: All executive officials are in agreement with one another on the issue of fighting against forbidden deeds; and that decisive action should be taken against corruption at the individual level and in society, which is directed by global arrogance and its internal agents. The Islamic Revolution Committee, through comprehensive research and careful planning in this field, will seriously deal with any promotion of corruption which might be undertaken with the intention of making the people forget the lofty aspirations of his holiness the imam [Khomeyni], may God's mercy be upon him, and aspirations of the Islamic revolution.

He added: As a result of investigations which have been carried out, it has become clear that following the decisive measures taken against drug traffickers the smugglers have sought employment in professions which lead to corruption in society; and it is therefore necessary to respond strongly against acts of corruption.

*Khamene'i Preachers Launch Emulation Campaign

91AS0116B London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Oct 90 pp 1, 8

[Text] The preachers in Khamene'i's group have decided to conduct an extensive propaganda program presenting Khamene'i as the only source of emulation [marja'-e taqlid] for all the Shiites of the world, thereby declaring the age-old tradition of multiple sources of emulation in the Ja'fari sect as excessive and probably against the interest of the government.

According to informed sources, one of the first steps the new Assembly of Experts will take will be to put a discussion of strengthening the leadership in the government of the velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] on its agenda, and after making the claim that the leadership has absolute authority in the government of the Islamic Republic and insisting that orders issued by the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult] are binding on all Muslims, it will approve a measure under which it will be a religious duty for all Muslims to obey Khamene'i's commands, including the sources of emulation and the high clergy.

Even now, in their propaganda the government's leaders not only call Khamene'i the leader of the world's Muslims, but they say officially that his commands have the force of religious law. The media controlled by the regime, and especially Islamic Republic television, also broadcast short remarks from Khamene'i's speeches as aphorisms, calling them commands and religious guidance.

Recently the regime's minister of education and training asked Khamene'i a question in the manner of an acolyte concerning a one-time authorization to spend funds from the imam's share to build classroom space, and Khamene'i answered as if he were issuing a religious decree.

The question and answer style between the regime's minister of education and training and Khamene'i immediately touched off an uproar in religious circles, and some informed people said that this was the preliminary step in a calculated plan to make an imam out of Khamene'i. According to these "informed sources", applying the term "imam" to Khomeyni was also accomplished through a calculated propaganda plan and in this way Khomeyni, who was a member of the continuous line of Shiite sources of emulation, and who, based on the number of his followers, was one of the lower grand ayatollahs, ranking behind Golpaygani, Shari'atmadari, Mar'ashi-Najafi, and Kho'i, suddenly appeared before the people in a position higher than all of them.

In reports of the last few days there were also suggestions about Khamene'i's role as the sole deciding authority concerning changes in religious commands. For example, at the 12 October Friday prayer Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the leader of the velayat-e faqih government as the "only competent authority" to issue religious decrees and resolve disputes between Islamic governments. At the Friday prayer sermons, Hashemi-Rafsanjani very cleverly used the term "source of emulation" instead of the terms religious rank, religious scholar, or even theologian, thereby attempting to get people used to hearing the term "source of emulation" as Khamene'i's rank.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also claimed that the supreme jurisconsult is infallible in issuing some decrees, and that his decrees must be seen as devoid of the usual human errors.

Until now, the regime's preachers have not called Khomeyni infallible, but in practice they have regarded his decrees as not being subject to error. Once when Khomeyni was alive, Musavi-Ardabili claimed in a Friday prayer that if Khomeyni was not infallible, he was at least close to it. It must be said that so far, other than the 14 infallibles [the Prophet, his daughter Fatemeh, and the 12 imams], the Shiites have applied this term to no one else.

It is said that the childish measures being taken by Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani in hand-picking the members of the Assembly of Experts are motivated by the desire that this assembly be 100 percent under their own control and that, as an assembly of persons from Islamic Iran with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, it will issue a decree that Khamene'i is the source of emulation.

In the process of validating the competence of members of the Assembly of Experts as persons with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, the regime's preachers introduced an idea that was protested by some of their colleagues. This new idea was that they recognized Khamene'i directly as the one authorized to designate the competence of clergymen as persons with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, and that he delegated this competence of his to the clergymen on the Council of Guardians, who are appointed by him. In this regard, Emami-Kashani noted that if Khamene'i implicitly or explicitly confirms someone as a person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, the theologians on the Council of Guardians will accept that confirmation without discussion, and that they will use their authority to validate the competence of persons with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence only with regard to persons concerning whom the leader has expressed no opinion.

Emami-Kashani and Mohammad Yazdi have also said several times that since Iran's regime is now Islamic there is no longer any need for multiple sources of emulation and that actually in a land where there is a supreme jurisconsult only one source of emulation should issue the final decree on religious commands, because if there are multiple sources of emulation and some of them issue decrees that contradict the decrees of the supreme jurisconsult, it would undermine the administration of the Islamic society's affairs.

The general idea is that the Shiites of the world, and especially the people of Iran, actually do not accept the current government as an Islamic regime, they see the ruling preachers simply as politicians and have separated the matter of government from religion, and those who are erratic in performing religious duties, especially, follow the source of emulation of their choice. Therefore, the regime's maneuvering to present Khamene'i as a source of emulation is purely a political matter.

The people particularly ridicule Khamene'i as the supreme jurisconsult of Muslims.

However, the regime's efforts to eliminate multiple sources of emulation will inevitably produce great turmoil. Meanwhile, the silence of some sources of emulation, and even their attendance at some of the regime's ceremonies has caused deep regret for those who are deeply committed to their religious beliefs and who are unhappy about the damage that is being done to the Ja'fari sect.

The leaders of the Tehran regime know that the ordinary people, despite their contempt for them, will not support the likes of Khalkhali and Mohtashemi in a struggle against Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khamene'i, but it is highly likely that the so-called radical preachers in the regime will align themselves with factions such as the hojjatiyehs and the velayatis [refers to those who are in favor of velayat-e faqih] to silence Hashemi-Rafsanjani. These two factions, although extremely reactionary, are not in agreement with Khomeyni's philosophy based on the possibility of establishing an Islamic government in the absence of the twelfth imam. They say that it will be

possible to establish a true Islamic government only when the chaste imam appears.

*Sanc'i Declares Opposition to Hashemi-Rafsanjani

91AS0116D London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] In remarks made to students on 11 October at a class on "external principles" at Qom Seminary, Ayatollah Sane'i showed his position in opposition to the Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khamene'i group, bringing himself into the fray that could lead to severe clashes between the two groups of preachers.

Addressing Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Ayatollah Sane'i called the preachers who are running the government "yesterday's reactionaries and today's politicians," who "yesterday wanted to know who would protect the windows of the cinemas from breakage, and are today revolutionaries in the full sense."

Ayatollah Sane'i threatened that "the nation will not allow yesterday's reactionaries to grow and stand against them at some point. The reactionary clergy must not imagine that the children of the revolution will sit by while they come and lead in any manner they wish. They must realize that those who are true to the imam (may the peace of God be upon him), the martyrs, the soldiers, the former prisoners of war, and those who have risen up for God will not permit them to grow in society. Officials must realize that the same Hezbollahi who was sometimes beaten will come to the aid of the revolution when it is in danger, and in so doing he will sacrifice everything."

Ayatollah Sane'i, who is supervisor of the 15 Khordad Foundation and is the same person who set a reward of $1 million after the decree to kill Salman Rushdie was issued, said concerning changing Khomeyni's decree: The Imam's decree concerning Salman Rushdie cannot be passed over, and no one, not even the Majles and the officials, can change it.

At the same class in Qom he criticized the fact that the Mohtashemi and Karrubi group was ignored and attacked in the Majles. He said: The Majles is in the forefront of affairs, and is the highest decision-making center. Therefore, the smallest blow against the Majles is the greatest national sin, because the Majles activates the laws of Islam, and striking and belittling it is a betrayal of the governmental commands of Islam.

Sheikh Mehdi Karrubi, who is still hospitalized and is worried about being ejected from the circle of power, sent a message to Ayatollah Sane'i in answer to his remarks at the seminary gathering thanking him for his support, and complaining about the fact that "the martyr-nurturing nation is being threatened more than before by the blind-hearted reactionaries, and by the fact that every day the martyr-nurturing nation's unity and flow are being damaged in some way," and he expressed concern about the fact that "the danger of Americanized Islam, the plague of reaction, and those seeking rehabilitation who have become today's policy-makers," are threatening the suffering Hezbollahi forces.

In the same message he attacked the secret groups such as the hojjatiyehs and the velayatis [those in favor of velayat-e faqih, rule of the supreme jurisconsult], the capitalists, self-indulgent people seeking rehabilitation, intellectuals following non-Islamic models, the clergy and other heirs to the revolution, who, hand in hand with naive, deluded, and mercenary people, wish to close the door on velayat-e faqih. He wrote: It is a certainty that the Hezbollah nation will never permit the words "velayat-e faqih" and "imam" to disappear.

Political observers predict that in the coming months the Majles will be an arena for serious clashes between the two groups of preachers who are fighting over the government. However, it is not expected that Khamene'i will dissolve the Majles, most of whose members are supporters of Mohtashemi and Karrubi, just to rid himself of it, because in any case laws passed by the Majles must be confirmed by the Council of Guardians to acquire the force of law, and the Council of Guardians is absolutely controlled by Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

*Tehran Deputy Attacks Elections, System

91AS0116A London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Oct 90 pp 1, 9

[Text] In a harsh Majles pre-agenda speech to the Majles on 16 October, Tehran deputy Asgharzadeh attacked Hashemi-Rafsanjani's supporters. He announced that in the recent Assembly of Experts elections the government's credibility was sold out and public confidence in the government of the Islamic Republic was damaged.

He emphasized that of the 6.3 million qualified voters in Tehran Province, only 1 million and 907 thousand people, or less than a third of them, took part in the elections.

Asgharzadeh was minister of justice during Mir Hoseyn Musavi's first term as prime minister, and has a master's degree from the Tehran College of Law. He attacked Hashemi-Rafsanjani's group for eliminating Karrubi, Mohtashemi, and other members of the Combatant Clergy Association (the breakaway group), and said:

I regret to declare here that in these elections there is neither victor nor vanquished, neither faction nor group has won. What has been sold out here is the prestige of the revolution and the honor of the government, which is the concern of both factions, some of whom are from the government and, because of wrongdoing, must face the unpleasant results and their heavy consequences.

He acknowledged that the people are aware of the regime's improper actions concerning the recent elections. Asgharzadeh said:

The people felt that a scenario was arranged in these elections in which a powerful faction concerned about the revolution was eliminated, and prominent and distinguished followers of the Imam's line such as His Holiness Mr. Karrubi, Mohtashemi, Khalkhali, Khatami, Bayat, and many others are being pushed aside, and preparations are even being made to discredit some of them.

He discussed the lack of credibility of the elections for the Assembly of Experts. He said: In some precincts candidates for the Assembly of Experts were even able to be elected with only one vote, and there was not even a need for two voters.

Asgharzadeh attacked Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He said:

Using every kind of threat, such as the analysis Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave at the Friday prayer, they noted the likelihood of a war in the streets during the elections for the Assembly of Experts. In fairness, this was an insult to a nation that has gone to the polls many times and has voted its choices and its views many times, and it will weaken the spirit of democracy and public participation.

He acknowledged that even as a Majles deputy he fears that they will attack and accuse him. He said:

As a representative of the people, although I served throughout the revolution, and many times, whether in the spy nest takeover or afterwards, I was praised and blessed by the great leader of the revolution, and I received the encouragement and kindness of His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, I have no guarantee of any kind that I will not be subjected to tens of curses, abuse, and threats.

Asgharzadeh revealed that after the death of Khomeyni, Hashemi-Rafsanjani sought to dissolve the Majles, but Khamene'i prevented this. He accused Hashemi-Rafsanjani's supporters of "opposition thinking" who have become a plague and are violating the law in every way. Asgharzadeh added:

It is very natural that we assess any measure to weaken the Majles or anything aimed at supporting or plotting for that thinking as being a form of opposition. They say a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, and in my view, those who have those opposition ideas believe that the weak link in the political and theological thinking that prevails in the revolution is indeed the existence of a parliament, and this is why they constantly attack it.

Asgharzadeh criticized the sending of a group of ruffians to the university and threatening the students. He said:

Sending this naive person to the university environment and threatening the students shows the government's weakness.

If they say it happened spontaneously, I say how could it have been spontaneous, when this has become a set profession, and never fluctuates. Gentlemen, our political system does not need a "brainless Sha'ban" [Sha'ban was a hoodlum who, during the former shah's rule, incited riots when needed].

The Tehran deputy gave statistics to show how public rejection of the Islamic Republic regime has accelerated.

He said: Allow me to offer a statistical picture of what has happened. In the previous elections for the Assembly of Experts, when we had 22,283,807 qualified voters, more than 18 million people participated, meaning more than 80 percent. Unfortunately, however, I must announce that in the second elections for the Assembly of Experts, although there were 31,434,450 qualified voters, only a little over 11 million voted, which is slightly more than one third. Now compare this figure with last year's presidential election, when we had 30 million qualified voters and 16,409,359 who voted, meaning that 55 percent of those qualified voted in the presidential election. It is interesting for you to know that in heavily-populated Tehran Province, the nation's most political province, of 6,298,349 qualified voters, only 1,907,632, or 30 percent (less than one-third) voted.

Asgharzadeh's remarks to the Majles met with a sharp reaction from Hashemi-Rafsanjani's supporters.

Even the newspaper KEYHAN, formerly controlled by Mohtashemi, said that Asgharzadeh's remarks were the work of "hidden hands," "intermediaries" and "people with influence", and that they inflicted "deep wounds" on the revolution. It wrote: Both factions in the country ought to take the cotton out of their ears and realize that the people are coming after them.

In an editorial this Saturday, the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI regarded these clashes as a weak spot in the Islamic Republic, which have made the entire government vulnerable.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI wrote: Experience has shown that domestic and foreign enemies of the revolution cannot plant doubters to weaken this revolution, because the people have always acted alertly against those on the opposition front, but this principle does not apply to the forces of the revolution lined up against each other attacking one another's honor.

The vulnerability of revolutionary forces begins precisely at the point of this clash and flexing of muscles, and in the end it hurts the entire revolution.

Political observers expect severe clashes in the coming days between the two rival factions, and even the possibility that the Majles will be dissolved.

Majlis Deputies Going on Strike Examined

NC0311184490 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 10 Oct 90 p 2

[Political commentary: "On Strike"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The most regrettable report that appeared on the eve of the elections was that some of the Majlis deputies closed the Islamic Majlis to protest the opinions voiced by another group. The session had to be suspended for lack of quorum because they stayed away from the Majlis. In other words, they went "on strike."

Hence, on Sunday, when most of the radios in the various circles of the Hezbollahi nation were tuned to the frequency which relays the Majlis sessions, and the people were waiting anxiously to hear the live relay of the session's deliberations, their anxiety and perturbation mounted as songs continued to play, and the hands of the clock ticked on. O God! What could be the matter? Why has the Majlis not convened its session? Finally at 1000 the signoff tune of the Islamic Republic of Iran was played, the conclusion of the transmission was announced, and there had been no Majlis session.

Various inquiries indicated that a particular group of Majlis deputies who consider themselves the representatives of the Velayat-ye Faqih [the rule of the supreme jurisconsult], and who had accused their opponents of opposing the Velayat, stood with their hands on the doorknob to the Majlis auditorium, and attempted to persuade one another not to attend the Majlis session. By eliciting their supporters to their own side, they prevented the Majlis session from convening with the required quorum.

The veracity of these allegations and to what extent this was in adherence to the Velayat-ye Faqih is a discussion needing elaboration, but on another, more suitable, occasion. In a country where the most minor strike, even in the smallest department in society, clearly contradicts the interests of the country and the exhortations of the Vali-ye Amr-e Moslemin [Guardian of the Muslims' Cause], and is thus illegal, is not a strike, an absence from the session, and an invitation to others to do so, contrary to interests and the injunctions of the Vali-ye Amr? Should this happen in an organization on which the eyes of friend and foe alike are riveted, and every issue that is debated and assessed therein has an impact on the policy and prestige of the system ?

The other point is that following the catastrophic 28 June uprising, the liberals in the Majlis persistently strove to keep the Majlis sessions suspended for lack of quorum, by deliberately absenting themselves. It was only through the vigilance of the Hezbollahi members and those disabled in the 28th June uprising, who insisted on attending the sessions, even in wheelchairs and hospital beds, that this was not allowed to happen. In the 12-year long existence of the Majlis, it has been unprecedented that any group should succeed in using this ploy, except on Sunday when regrettably this "crooked stone" was laid.

Regardless of all the above points, if we suppose that the massive claims that those responsible for this incident are making are true, has not an undesirable precedent been created by this strike, which can be emulated by any group at any time, merely to get their own way, when they wish to? Under such circumstances, which official will be responsible for tackling the situation and those who bring it about? This is definitely acting against the will of the Vali-ye Amr-e Moslemin, who has always called on all to preserve brotherhood and peace. There is no doubt that those responsible for this incident should make amends for such repugnant behavior at the first opportune moment.

Paper Says Hezbollahi Should Assist Palestinians

NC0511205590 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 17 Oct 90

[Political commentary by A. Salah: "Hezbollahi Cells! Be Prepared"]

[Excerpts] For over 40 years, the Palestinian land has been burning in the flames of Zionist brutality and savagery, and the defenseless Palestinian Muslims have been the targets of the genocidal plots of the nurturers of "Herzl."

The tyrannized Palestinian Muslims are made to wallow in blood and dust on the very own soil of their ancestral homeland, their homes are demolished, and the al-Aqsa Mosque and other sacred sites are being destroyed.

The latest massacre of the Palestinians in the al-Aqsa Mosque at the hands of the Zionists is in fact an indication of their vigilance and steadfastness against the covert policy of a step-by-step destruction of the first qiblah [direction toward which Muslims face for prayer] of the world's Muslims and attempts to strip it of its identity as one of the holiest and most sacred sites of Islam. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, we Muslims have not displayed the necessary dynamism and unity, and most of the time, we content ourselves with issuing statements whenever our Palestinian Muslim brethren are subjected to these criminal acts. If even once, Israel were to see that after it committed such a heinous atrocity, 2 billion Muslims of the world were poised, united, against it, seriously and in practice, the issues of the Middle East would take on an entirely different form.

Now that the reactionary heads of most Islamic countries prefer to maintain a deathlike silence on any other kind of reaction, the Hezbollahi resistance cells all over the world should enter the arena against the interests of the United States and Israel all over the world, so that they may show the front of apostasy that Muslims are not silent spectators and that Muslims worldwide will respond to every blow that is dealt to the Palestinian Muslims.

Editorial Warns on Foreign Loans, Results

LD0811114990 Tehran IRNA in English
1110 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—An Iranian daily Thursday [8 November] warned against consequences of Iran's decision to obtain external loans and advised the authorities "to think before committing the country in an irreversible path."

The English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL noted in its editorial that the loans aimed at dealing with the consequences of the eight- year long war has obtained the approval of the Majlis. It quoted the central bank governor as saying that the motive for obtaining the loans were to establish "economic balance in order to provide the deprived and oppressed classes with relative social security" and also do away with the crisis triggered by inflation, unemployment and budget deficit. The governor has also said, "The motives are honourable and praise-worthy if they work," wrote the paper.

Referring to perpetual dilemmas of the Third World indebted countries, the editorial said, "Would the government fail in its avowed goals, the country will have to undergo a lot of sufferings for many years to come." "Iran's problems might at first look to be stemming from shortage of money or financing but a closer look could unmask the fact that it is administrative," said the editorial. It continued, "Iran cannot correctly utilize any loans in the absence of a sound adminstrative system to channel the money into construction. Therefore, the country's most immediate problem is one of management." The paper criticized the existing red tape and said, "If the government is to successfully use the loans, it should first cut down to size this redundant bureaucracy."

It also pointed to the need for "drastic policy adjustments" if the Islamic Republic decides to go ahead with obtaining foreign financing. "Does the Islamic Republic want an influx of foreigners? Does it want them in key posts?" The paper asked warning "these decisions are inevitable in view of our limited managerial resources."

The editorial further singled out the existing disregard for the quality of manufactured products believing that Iran will not be able to count on its export income and must again rely on oil exports. "But the tumultuous oil market ... is going to make repayment of loans a little difficult," concluded the editorial.

Editorial Comments on New Newspaper SALAM

LD0711162490 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian
24 Oct 90 pp 1,8

[Editorial: "Political Games and Widespread Pessimism"]

[Text] The publication of the SALAM newspaper by the Militant Clerics' Association (Rohaniyun) is considered to be a positive step and good news by those who follow from a distance the activities of groups of influence in Iran.

Under conditions when the people gain nothing from the activities of movements which are, in reality, like political parties (quite apart from the damage caused by group dogmatism), the publication of an organ which can continuously give the people the opinions of a specific group, can be a step toward the growth of awareness in society. This is especially true since the most prominent figure in that group has taken responsibility for the newspaper's management.

Now one can openly claim that the publication of the RESALAT newspaper by another group is also adding to the people's awareness of those who claim that, despite severe shortcomings, they are running society in the best possible way. These shortcomings can be found within the pages of RESALAT newspaper, so there is no way open for denial. Yet, there is still a long way to go before the people's opinions become clear about the nature of all those who act under the umbrella of a group and a political trend. But today the people have in their hands, nevertheless, a fairly complete file on the positions and thoughts of a group that has its own mouthpiece.

To have people meddle into the most basic issues of the country only by gaining the confidence of one group is not something that is practiced in any country in the world. Especially because of the competition between the different groups of influence, the concept of attracting people is more pronounced in order to gain power. Experience in the past several years has left no question that these groups of influence have even resisted the implementation of the law when offenders were linked to them. This bitter truth has made the expansion of the negative aspects of group-forming in Iran more definite.

In the past, we mentioned the actions of some of the elements of these movements—which would never have been committed by a force dedicated to principles—and we have underlined the necessity to guide movements toward open activity. We said that groups of influence act in our society at present, as if they were political parties, but without promoting growth in politics or culture in the country.

We again wish to point out the necessity of cultural growth which dictates joint work among the groups that exist in society. Without a doubt, it must be said that the actions of some groups who insult their opposing factions in any way possible in an effort to remove them look more like political games rather than healthy and constructive political activity. Even though, in the West, such activity is not all that unpleasant, in an Islamic regime where all concerned claim to be Muslims, it is most certainly not very pleasant.

Political currents, even if like the founder of the revolution do not respect all lines of opposing thought, must believe firmly in the most basic principles of collective work in society. So far the representatives linked to these groups have never moved within this framework. The clash between the two opposing lines of thought in the Majles unfortunately speaks of this truth.

Although the publication of the SALAM newspaper could be taken as a step toward open group activity in Iran, it seems that there is still a great deal of resistance with regard to acting within the law. The only way to prevent the growth of elements in the shadow of the groups, who are faithful neither to the people nor to the country, is to reveal the various facets of the influential groups' activities. Looking deeply into the reasons why groups who act like groups, but want to avoid the rules that govern their activity, one can see many issues which have no outcome except causing disappointment in any sort of group-formation. Before this feeling becomes widespread, the honest elements within the groups have the enormous responsibility to limit the abuse undertaken by the groups which delivers blows against the society, by remaining faithful to the principles and interests of the people and the revolution.

*Peshmergas Congress Convenes in Mahabad

91AS0116N London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Oct 90 p 3

[Text] Last week a two-day congress called the Muslim Kurd Peshmerga Congress was convened in the city of Mehabad. This congress, attended by 500 Kurdish Peshmerga supporters of the regime, was also attended by Izadi, revolutionary guard infantry commander, along with the commander of the Hamzah base.

This congress was formed following increased armed activity in the area by the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran, which led to the killing of a significant number of the regime's revolutionary guards.

A significant point with regard to the formation of this congress is the reference to the "secret Wahabi role in the area" during its sessions. It appears that the Islamic Republic takes a suspicious view of the activities of the government of Saudi Arabia among the Sunni Kurds in this region.

*Persian Gulf Insurance Rates Increase

91AS0116J London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] The Persian Gulf crisis and the extensive presence of foreign forces in the Arab nations of this area has caused international insurance companies to both increase insurance rates on ships sailing in the waters of this region and to increase insurance rates on passenger and cargo aircraft required to fly in the skies of the Persian Gulf.

According to a report in the London newspaper LLOYD'S LIST, currently insurance rates on ships bound for the region are much higher than the rates charged ship owners at the beginning of the military clashes between the Islamic Republic and Iraq. In its report, the newspaper announced insurance rates on conveyances in the Persian Gulf basin. For several weeks, airlines which must fly to some Middle Eastern nations must pay $100 more in insurance rates for each passenger. LLOYD'S LIST writes: In addition to the additional insurance rates for passengers bound for Middle Eastern nations, the international airlines must pay five cents in additional insurance for each $100 in additional cargo to the international insurance companies.

*Government Invites Specialists To Return

91AS0116L London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] To make up for extensive shortages in trained manpower and university faculty, the Islamic Republic has contacted the United Nations, and according to a report from Tehran, the United Nations Development Office has agreed to help the Islamic Republic invite Iranian graduates of foreign universities and specialists in various fields. A Tehran newspaper published a report on the signing of a contract for participation by Iranian specialists outside the country in university and research activities. It wrote: Iranian specialists outside the country are invited to participate in the nation's university and research activities based on a contract with the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and the United Nations Development Office.

The newspaper KEYHAN of Tehran also writes: The contract inviting cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education's academic and international cooperation offices and the United Nations Development Office has been signed. Based on this contract, Iranian specialists will be invited to engage for three years in educational and research activities at the universities and academic centers.

Officials from the regime's Ministry of Culture announced that the cost of this project will be paid by the United Nations Development Office and it is expected that with its implementation a significant amount of the manpower needed by the country will be procured.

A manpower expert told KEYHAN's reporter that in the last few years the Islamic Republic has tried using various means to attract to Iran the best Iranian minds and graduates from foreign universities who are now working in various countries. Apparently these efforts have not had the results that could be expected and turning to the United Nations to attract educated people is also actually an indication of the failure of the Islamic Republic's officials to attract graduates and trained Iranian manpower to the country.

Nepal & Bhutan

King Proclaims New Constitution 9 Nov

BK0911071890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0705 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 9 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal Friday proclaimed a new constitution for his country, voluntarily relinquishing his sovereign authority to the people. The king, 47, made the historic proclamation in a brief speech from a golden throne in the royal palace through nationwide television and state radio.

The king said that it was the tradition of monarchy to govern the country in accordance with the will of the people. It was in accordance with that tradition that he had asked the Council of Ministers to prepare a constitution. A commission was set up to draft the document consolidating multi-party democracy and institutionalizing constitutional monarchy.

The king expressed his belief that under multi-party democracy the people's freedom would flourish.

A special function held at the royal palace to mark the occasion was attended by heads of foreign diplomatic missions, heads of constitutional bodies, ministers and leaders of the major political parties.

Dipendra Bound for Japan Emperor's Enthronement

OW0911062290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0535 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov. 9 KYODO—Crown Prince Dipendra left Friday morning for Tokyo to represent Nepal at the enthronement ceremony of Emperor Akihito of Japan.

The crown prince, who is the eldest son of King Birendra, is being accompanied by Prince Gyanendra and Princess Komal, brother and sister-in-law of the Nepalese monarch.

The royal entourage includes Minister Achyut Raj Regmi as well as palace and foreign ministry officials.